

Trident launched from submarine
CAPE CANAVERAL (AP) — The crew of the nuclear submarine Tennessee, thwarted last week by anti-nuclear protesters, launched a Trident 2 missile Wednesday in the first successful underwater test of the navy's newest, deadliest weapon. The Tennessee was cruising about 90 kilometers off Cape Canaveral when 13-metre Trident 2 burst to the surface, ignited and propelled a dummy warhead package for down the Atlantic tracking range. The test flight was a success. A navy statement provided no details. The result was in sharp contrast to the Trident 2's first submarine launch March 21 when the missile ploughed out of control and exploded four seconds after it was launched from the Tennessee. Investigators traced the problem to a mechanical linkage responsible for moving the rocket nozzles back and forth. The system was redesigned. The test had been scheduled last Friday but was halted when two large Greenpeace USA ships sailed into the launch danger zone in international waters. Two small motorized rafts dispatched from one of the ships buzzed the submarine and crew members attached three "nuclear free seas" banners to it. The Greenpeace vessels did not return.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، والرأي

KAL 'guilty of willful misconduct'

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. jury Wednesday found Korean Airlines (KAL) guilty of willful misconduct when one of its planes flew off course six years ago and was shot down by a Soviet war plane, killing all 269 people aboard. The federal jury of three men and three women ruled that the actions by KAL's crew were one of the causes of the downing of Flight 007 by a Soviet fighter plane. Wednesday's verdict permits the families of the dead passengers to file individual suits seeking damages in excess of a \$75,000 per passenger limit on compensation set under international treaty. After the ruling read in court by U.S. District Judge Aubrey Robinson, the jury began deliberating the question of whether the families are entitled to punitive damages as well and if so, in what amount. In final arguments Tuesday after a two-week trial in U.S. district court, lawyers for families of the victims said Flight 007 was off course almost from the minute it left the ground in Anchorage, Alaska, and headed in its Pacific Ocean route for Seoul, South Korea.

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Bhutto to visit Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has accepted an invitation to visit Jordan this year, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported Wednesday.

Petra quoted a spokesman for the Prime Ministry as saying the visit comes upon an invitation by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

Petra said the date of the visit was not yet fixed and would be announced later.

Sharif Zaid, Qasem return from Jeddah

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Deputy Prime Minister Marwan Al Qasem accompanied His Majesty King Hussein on a visit to Saudi Arabia on Monday returned to Amman Wednesday afternoon.

Committee donates JD 1.5 m to intifada

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian fund-raising group said Wednesday it had collected JD 2.06 million and contributed JD 1.5 million to the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Mamdouh Al Abbadi, treasurer of the Popular Committee for Supporting the Intifada, told reporters the funds had been raised since January.

"We gave JD 1,000 to families of each martyr and JD 200 to each one wounded in the intifada," he said.

"We also supplied hospitals with equipment and medical supplies," he added.

At a press conference he held Wednesday at the Professional Association Complex Wednesday, Abbadi said that a total of JD 1,587,252 was paid.

The committee also sent about 3,500 printouts to medical institutions all over the world urging them to contribute to alleviating the suffering of the Palestinian people, he added.

The National Medical Institution (NMI), Abbadi said, has been training a number of doctors from the West Bank and Gaza Strip on means to treat people suffering from gunshots, poisonous gases, and other injuries.



A three-year-old girl cries after her house was destroyed in West Beirut during shelling between rival forces.

Ramadan: Jordan, Iraq seek new initiative

Iraq calls for Arab summit on Lebanon

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq called Wednesday for an Arab summit to discuss the Lebanese civil war.

Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz told the Iraqi News Agency (INA) that after the failure of an Arab League mediation committee on Lebanon Arab leaders should take a new approach.

"Now that the committee has announced it has reached a dead end, Iraq strongly reaffirms the necessity for a pan-Arab settlement of the Lebanese crisis," Aziz said.

He urged the calling of an emergency Arab summit, which he said should be responsible for settling the crisis in Lebanon, saving it from foreign occupation and terror and restoring peace and unity.

Iraq supports the military government of Lebanese army commander Michel Aoun while Syria backs a rival civilian government led by acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss.

Aziz said the Arab World had to take an urgent initiative to help Lebanon or the situation would

deteriorate even more and further threaten Arab security.

The foreign ministers of Algeria, Morocco and Saudi Arabia said Monday that despite exhaustive efforts to bring peace to Lebanon they had found it impossible to end the 14-year-old civil war.

Both Syria and Iraq had said they backed the Arab League peace moves.

Speaking after two days of talks in Algiers and Rabat, the three ministers said that their mission had reached a dead end.

An emergency Arab summit in Casablanca in May gave their heads of state six months to end the fighting in Lebanon and start talks on reforming the Christian-dominated political system.

Repeated ceasefire calls have failed to halt artillery battles pitting Aoun's troops against Syrian-backed Lebanese militias in which more than 500 people have died since March.

In Amman, Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Wednesday that

Jordan and Iraq had agreed on a new Arab initiative to save Lebanon.

His Majesty King Hussein and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq have "agreed on the necessity for Arab leaders to make a historic move to save Lebanon and return its life to normal, including the country's sovereignty and the unity of its lands."

Ramadan said in a departure statement to Petra.

He did not specify what form that action might take.

Ramadan said he delivered a letter to the King from the Iraqi leader after his arrival Tuesday and was taking a royal message back in return. He did not elaborate on the contents.

Ramadan said talks touched on efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war, the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and the Palestine problem as well as Lebanon.

Hizbollah warns U.S. to stay away

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Lebanese militants warned Washington Wednesday there would be "no limits" to "our reprisals" if the United States retaliated over the reported killing of kidnapped U.S. Marine Colonel William Higgins in Lebanon.

Sheikh Abbas Musawi, a top figure in the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) issued the warning in an interview with Reuters following reports that 14 American warships — a number of them in the Mediterranean — had hurriedly left port.

Musawi said Washington could not afford the price of "another crime in our area."

"If the new American tyrant (President George) Bush commits any action, we will teach him a lesson he will never forget," Musawi said, recalling attacks by pro-Iranian militants against U.S. forces in Lebanon since 1982, including a suicide truck bomb that killed 241 Marines in their Beirut barracks in October 1983.

"We taught America a lesson that it will never forget. It was a harsh lesson to the U.S. administration," Musawi said.

The Organisation of the Oppressed of the World said Monday it had hanged Higgins after Israel failed to release Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, a leading Lebanese cleric kidnapped by Israeli forces from South Lebanon last week.

A second American captive in Lebanon, Joseph Cicippio, has also been threatened with death Thursday unless Israel gives in to the demands for the release of Obeid, a Hizbollah leader.

U.S. Defence Department officials said that the flagship and commander of the Sixth Fleet cancelled a Soviet port call in order to be "at the beck and call" of Bush in case he needs them in the current hostage situation. The USS Belknap, the flagship of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean, cancelled its scheduled visit to the Soviet port of Sevastopol, and the aircraft carrier USS America also has cut short a visit and left the port of Singapore, other officials said.

Overall, there are some 25 U.S. ships in the Mediterranean at this time, with approximately 20 others in the Gulf and Indian Ocean region, Defence Department officials said.

Officials of Israel and the United States said that the two sides were cooperating closely to resolve the crisis.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly told reporters after talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens: "Both governments are going to try to cooperate very closely to bring things to an improvement."

He would not elaborate on details of the talks, but Arens said Washington was pressing Iran and Syria to get extremists in Lebanon to release 17 Western

hostages and three Israeli soldiers they are believed to hold.

Arens told reporters Kelly had expressed "no criticism of the Israeli kidnapping."

Meanwhile, U.N. Undersecretary-General Marrack Goulding also arrived in the region and flew into South Lebanon by helicopter to investigate the report that the kidnappers had hanged Higgins, who was serving as a U.N. truce observer when he was kidnapped in Lebanon in February last year.

Bush is getting help from the Pope and seeking aid from other world leaders to try to solve the hostage crisis, but the White House cautioned against hopes for a quick resolution.

The Vatican announced that Pope John Paul II would help seek the return to the United States of Higgins' body. In a 12-minute telephone call Tuesday, Bush asked the Pope to intercede in getting Higgins' body returned if, in fact, the officer had been killed.

"His Holiness expressed the willingness of the Holy See to find a solution to this problem," a Vatican statement said.

Bush also called Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, while other U.S. officials contacted the Soviet Union and other countries in the Middle East to seek assistance in winning freedom for the remaining Western hostages in Lebanon.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said in Tehran that Moscow would use its growing influence in Iran on behalf of the hostages.

West Germany is using its contacts with Iran and Syria to try to help save the lives of Westerners held hostage, a Bonn government official said, adding: "The American government asked us to use our influence in order to help save the lives of hostages."

Several U.S. officials said Tuesday that while the option of military retaliation remained a possibility, Bush was unlikely to order such a strike for fear of harming other hostages.

Tehran Radio warned that any Israeli or U.S. commando action to prevent the killing of Western hostages in Lebanon would worsen the crisis.

I said Israel's "hasty and terrorist act" in seizing Obeid was made in collaboration with the United States.

Israel now faced an impasse, he said. Releasing Obeid would be seen as a damning retreat, while his continued detention could "lead to the execution of more Western hostages, increasing public opinion pressure on the United States and Israel."

"Another option might be an attack by commandos of the United States, Israel or their mercenaries against those they claim are involved in hostage-taking in Lebanon," said the radio commentary, monitored in Nicosia.

"In that case, the situation will become so complex that a solution will become difficult."

In Moscow, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman denounced the reported hanging as an "inhuman action."



Indian soldiers withdrawn from Sri Lanka disembark at Madras port in South India.

Violence in Sri Lanka, talks in Delhi

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Fire destroyed at least 25 shops owned by Tamils of Indian descent, police said Wednesday as the government tried again to break an impasse over the withdrawal of Indian peacekeeping forces from Sri Lanka.

Elsewhere, the military said Sinhalese extremists killed at least seven people since Tuesday in central and southern Sri Lanka.

No casualties were reported in Tuesday night's blaze that gutted

the shops in a 52-year-old, two-storey shopping complex, said one police official.

The official said the building had housed jewelry stores, a stationery shop and a pharmacy.

Police said investigations had begun into the blaze, which they said may have been caused by an electrical short-circuit. But investigators, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they could not rule out arson.

Sinhalese radicals have stirred up an anti-India campaign to protest

the presence of about 45,000 peacekeeping soldiers deployed in the Tamil-dominated north and east.

In New Delhi, Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne met with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi Wednesday to negotiate the withdrawal of the Indian soldiers. Details of the talks were not immediately available.

The chief minister of Sri Lanka's Tamil-dominated north-east council left for New Delhi on Wednesday to join the talks, official sources said.

They said Vartharaja Perumal was left aboard an Indian air force aircraft accompanied by a minister, a member of the council and three senior officials.

India withdrew a token 600 soldiers Saturday, averting a threatened confrontation between Colombo and New Delhi after Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa set July 29 as a deadline for a complete troop pullout.

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Hun Sen to cooperate with U.N. mission

PARIS (AP) — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said Wednesday he had instructed his government to welcome a U.N. mission dispatched by an international peace conference.

"I have already given instructions to give all the assistance necessary to this technical mission," Hun Sen told reporters at his hotel.

At the start of the international conference on Cambodia Sunday, Hun Sen had opposed the United Nations playing any role in monitoring implementation of a peace plan.

Hun Sen said he changed his mind about the U.N. mission after receiving assurances from U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the foreign ministers of Canada and Australia that the presence of the fact-finding mission did not imply future U.N. involvement in peace efforts.

The United Nations recognises the coalition of three Cambodian factions as the nation's legitimate

representative and not Hun Sen's government, installed by Vietnam after it invaded Cambodia in 1978.

Hun Sen said foreign ministers attending the 19-nation conference on Cambodia had "called on all parties to create conditions for the success of this mission, and we intend to comply."

Cambodia will attempt to provide security for the mission "in the areas under our control," he said.

The U.N. team will present the information gathered to a committee charged with creating a mechanism for monitoring the pullout of Vietnamese troops.

Vietnam, which sent its army into Cambodia in 1978, has said it will withdraw all troops by Sept. 27.

It was not clear when the U.N. team would leave for Cambodia or whether the Communist Khmer Rouge, one of the three resistance factions, would make the unprecedented gesture of allowing the mission to visit the refugee camps it controls.

The Khmer Rouge — who are held responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths during the three years it ruled the country — remain Hun Sen's arch enemies but apparently shared his reservations about the U.N. team.

In a meeting with reporters Wednesday, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said he hosted a dinner for the Khmer Rouge representative, Khieu Samphan, to explain the non-political nature of the U.N. team.

China has been the main supporter and arms supplier of the Khmer Rouge, the strongest of the resistance factions, with an estimated 45,000 troops.

The involvement of the Khmer Rouge in a future Cambodian government remains one of the major obstacles to finding a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Qian said China still supports a transitional government that includes the Khmer Rouge, Hun Sen and the leaders of the other two resistance factions — Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Son

Sann.

But, he indicated that China might be willing to see the Khmer Rouge represented in the new government by new leaders, rather than by those associated with the 1975-78 reign of terror.

Parallel talks among the four Cambodian factions broke down last week, and Hun Sen said no new talks were planned because the Khmer Rouge refuses to return to the negotiating table. He added that he planned to meet with Sihanouk late Wednesday before leaving Paris Thursday.

At the close of the meeting Tuesday, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said the unanimous agreement by the delegates to dispatch the fact-finding mission and set up a work programme was "a great first step" towards peace.

But Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark cautioned against "high expectations."

"We should not assume that a problem that has endured for decades can be solved in a month."

More West Bank schools reopened

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Israeli occupation authorities Wednesday reopened more than 300 Arab schools in the occupied West Bank which have been closed for most of the 19-month-old Palestinian uprising.

As pupils went back to class, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly arrived for talks which will include Israeli proposals for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Some 69,000 Palestinian children in grades seven, eight and nine returned to 324 schools without incident, said a spokeswoman for the occupation authorities in the West Bank.

The move marks the second stage in a gradual reopening of West Bank schools announced July 12.

The army reopened primary and 12th grade schools late last month after students' parents and school principals gave assurances that children would not demonstrate during class hours.

No timetable was set for reopening 10th and 11th grade classes, said Israeli spokeswoman Renee Freedman.

"There's a feeling of relaxation after a lot of tension and a hope that they will not be closed again," said Palestinian commentator Daoud Kuttab.

The West Bank's 1,200 Arab schools were first closed in February 1988 two months after the start of the Palestinian uprising. The military said they were holed up of violence.

Kelly, a former U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, began his first visit to Israel in his current post by meeting Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

He was scheduled to meet

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Thursday morning and a group of Palestinian leaders from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in the afternoon.

Palestinians said the group planned to present a memorandum outlining their position on their quest to end the occupation.

They would object to Kelly's plans not to meet officials of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) during his swing through the Middle East, they said. Kelly is also to visit Egypt and Jordan.

The Israeli proposals have been complicated by disputes in Shamir's Likud party, with hardliners demanding tough conditions for any poll in the occupied territories that could lead to limited Palestinian self-rule.

The United States expressed concern the conditions would prevent Palestinian agreement to the plan, but the government recently reaffirmed the plan without them.

In the Gaza Strip, Jamil Mohammad Shehade, 30, from Jahalya refugee camp was found stabbed to death at dawn Tuesday. Palestinians said he was suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities.

Kelly also met Vice-Premier Shimon Peres, who said much of their conversation focused on the Israeli initiative.

"Most of the time was devoted to...the peace momentum, which is the major issue after all," Peres told reporters.

Kelly's visit has been overshadowed by Israel's abduction of a pro-Iranian Muslim cleric from Lebanon and the reported killing of a U.S. hostage in retaliation.

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Beirut shelling rages

BEIRUT (AP) — Rival gunners skirmished intermittently with mortars and automatic rifles in Beirut and the surrounding mountains Wednesday and a police spokesman said six people were wounded.

The spokesman, who cannot be named under standing rules, said they also fired rocket-propelled grenades at each other's positions across the capital's dividing green line.

Four of the casualties were wounded in east Beirut and two in the city's western sector, most of them by sniper fire, he said. By police count, the five-month confrontation between army commander Michel Aoun's predominantly Christian soldiers and Syrian-backed militia forces in Lebanon has claimed 511 lives and wounded 2,188 people.

The skirmishing, combined with fears that heavy shelling would resume, prompted cancellation of traditional celebrations of the Islamic new year, which fell Wednesday.

Dar Al Fawa, the highest Sun-

ni Muslim religious authority, called off its traditional new year reception because of the current round of violence.

Sheikh Rashid, a clergyman at the Dar Al Fawa Centre, said: "There is no celebration mood. Beirut has been largely demolished and hundreds of innocent people have been killed. Do you expect anyone to celebrate anything?"

Ferocious artillery duels between Aoun's gunners and the Syrian-backed militias inflicted severe damage on most of Beirut forcing 1.3 million of its original 1.5 million population to desert the city and seek refuge in safer areas.

However, government offices, banks, and other businesses closed in Beirut's both sectors to mark the new year's day, regarded as an official holiday throughout the country.

The current confrontation broke out March 8, two days after Aoun blocked illegal ports run by militias south of Beirut for

depriving the ailing state treasury of about \$100 million annually in lost customs dues.

The Syrians and their militia allied forces retaliated by shelling and besieging the 800-square-kilometre Christian enclave northeast of Beirut.

A three-member Arab League foreign ministers' mediation committee said Tuesday it has reached an "impasse" for which it blamed Syria.

King Hassan II of Morocco, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid were asked by an Arab summit May 26 to find a settlement by November to the 14-year civil war. Their foreign ministers have been shuttling between Beirut and Damascus since then.

The daily newspaper Safir described the committee's report as "very serious because it reflected a hostile attitude towards Syria."

Farouq Abillama, an aide to Aoun, described the committee's report as an "indictment of the Syrian presence in Lebanon."



Children swim in a river in South Lebanon as their parents prepare lunch in their makeshift tent at the bank of the river. They are among hundreds of people who fled the carnage in Beirut.

Shevardnadze ends Iran visit with mediation offer

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze left Tehran Tuesday after announcing that the Soviet Union was willing to mediate in deadlocked peace talks between Iran and Iraq, Tehran Radio reported.

The radio also quoted Shevardnadze, who arrived Monday, as telling President-elect Hashemi Rafsanjani that Iraq should withdraw from the Iranian territory it still holds.

"We deeply regret that a group of Iranian and Iraqi people are held captive, but their release would be impossible before Iraq's withdrawal from Iranian soil," the radio reported.

He was referring to more than 100,000 prisoners of war (POW) held by both sides.

In a meeting with Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, Shevardnadze said the Soviet Union was willing to exploit good relations with both Gulf war foes in an effort to further the talks, according to the broadcast monitored in Nicosia.

The Iran-Iraq peace talks started five days after a United Nations-mediated ceasefire halted the war last Aug. 20, but deadlocked immediately.

Further rounds of negotiation faltered over Tehran's demand that Iraq must withdraw all its troops from 1,000 square kilometres and Baghdad's insistence that the Shatt Al Arab waterway should belong to Iraq.

Iran argues that sovereignty over the waterway should be shared.

Referring to recently improved bilateral ties, Shevardnadze said: "Our two countries have opened a new chapter in relations."

"We are prepared to expand ties in all fields with respect to the socio-political order, which the Iranian nation has independently chosen," the radio quoted him as saying.

In his meeting with Velayati, Shevardnadze stressed the need for regular exchanges with the

Iranian foreign minister "in the interests of international peace," the radio reported.

Velayati welcomed Shevardnadze's offer to intercede in the peace talks.

He hinted before Shevardnadze's arrival that Iran would like the Soviet Union to use its influence in the United Nations to pressure Iraq.

The Soviets are thought to have leverage with Baghdad as Iraq's main arms suppliers in the Gulf war.

Shevardnadze also met Tuesday with Prime Minister Hussein Mussavi, the radio said.

According to the Soviet TASS news agency, Shevardnadze and Rafsanjani also expressed regret at the reported killing of American hostage Lieutenant-Colonel William Higgins.

Rafsanjani, in his first meeting with a foreign statesman since his election Friday, also signed a joint statement "condemning all acts of a terrorist nature," the official Soviet news agency said.

TASS said the two men noted a narrowing of Soviet and Iranian positions on finding a solution to the civil war in Afghanistan and setting up a broad-based government there.

TASS said Shevardnadze expressed "serious concern" to Rafsanjani over the kidnapping by Israeli commandos of Shiite Muslim cleric Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeidi from his home in South Lebanon Friday and the reported hanging of Higgins.

"Rafsanjani, having expressed deep regret about what had happened, confirmed that Iran has no connection with the tragedy played out in Lebanon," TASS said.

"The sides condemned all acts of a terrorist nature and called for the adoption of urgent measures to prevent a further exacerbation of the situation," it added.

Shevardnadze discussed the situation in Lebanon during his talks with Velayati. They agreed to hold further close consultations on the issue, TASS said.

SPLA promises safe conduct for relief train

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Southern rebels have cleared the way for the moving of a relief train carrying 1,350 tons of relief food to starving southerners by announcing they would ensure its safety.

"We once again reaffirm our commitment to the safety of the train going to Aweil," the clandestine radio of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) said Tuesday.

"We reassure the concerned sides that the (SPLA) movement will take all the necessary steps for the protection of train in its passage through the SPLA-held areas," it added. It was monitored in Khartoum.

Since a massive U.N.-coordinated relief operation started last April to transfer 105,000 tons of relief material into the south before the summer rains, only two train convoys have moved. While travelling in SPLA-held areas, both were subjected to attacks by bandits and hungry villagers who seized much of the relief on board.

The United Nations said last month that the third 45-car train which was supposed to leave June 17 for Aweil, a major centre for displaced people in the south, would not leave without assurances of safety from the rebels. The train convoy distributes relief to both government-held and rebel-held areas.

United Nations officials were

not immediately available to comment on the rebel announcement.

The U.N. says that 250,000 died in 1988 from starvation, disease and from the fighting in the south. They warned that 100,000 could die this year unless enough food is prepositioned in the southern regions. So far, about 80 per cent of the food and supplies has been moved.

The SPLA radio also said that presidents Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia would act as mediators in peace talks with Sudan's military rulers.

The radio said the two African leaders had told the SPLA they would try to mediate an end to Sudan's six-year-old civil war. It gave no other details.

Mubarak, elected chairman of the 49-nation Organisation of African Unity (OAU) last week, has met SPLA leader John Garang to work out details of the proposed talks, expected to start in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa later this week.

The SPLA, fighting to end what it regards as domination of the south by the north, has its main offices in Ethiopia.

The rebel radio, citing what it said were circumstances beyond the SPLA control, also said Garang had postponed a major address due to have been made Tuesday.

Superpowers make little headway on Afghanistan

STOCKHOLM (Agencies) — Two days of talks on Afghanistan by U.S. and Soviet officials in Stockholm have failed to achieve progress, according to a senior U.S. official.

"Other than a frank exchange we came to no results at all," U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly told reporters Tuesday at the end of the talks, the first superpower meeting on Afghanistan at this level in 15 months.

The Soviet delegation leader, Ambassador-at-large Nikolai Kozlov, would not comment, beyond saying the talks were "fruitful and useful."

As the delegations met in Stockholm, reports from Afghanistan indicated both the U.S. and the Soviet Union had stepped up arms shipments — to the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah and the U.S.-supported Mujahideen guerrillas respectively.

Kelly said significant differences between the parties still blocked progress towards ending the conflict.

"We believe that the will of the Afghan people is that there

should be a different regime in Kabul.

"But the Soviet government is supplying more than \$200 million worth of weaponry to Kabul each month to keep it (the Najibullah regime) in power," he said.

When Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan last February, it was widely expected that the Najibullah government would collapse within weeks.

But the Mujahideen, entangled by internal divisions, have managed to secure only six of 31 provincial capitals and have also failed to gain control of the strategic eastern city of Jalalabad.

The Soviet ambassador in Kabul said last month that the Soviet delegation would use the Stockholm meeting to propose an agreement with the United States obliging both superpowers to stop supplying arms for the war.

But Kelly said no agreement of this kind had been reached.

Rockets seized

In Kabul, a government spokesman said Tuesday a major military operation in and around the Afghan capital resulted in the

confiscation of 100 rockets and 50 arrests.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said the government issued urgent instructions to the armed forces Monday to take any military measures necessary to stop rocket attacks that have hit almost daily in the capital since late June. No rockets fell on Kabul Tuesday.

United Nations sources said that since June 25, rockets and a car bombing have killed 281 people and injured 745, virtually all civilians. On Monday, Kabul was pounded by 14 rockets that killed 24 people and injured 58.

Amani said a search operation started Monday evening and continued until Tuesday morning.

Government forces confiscated large quantities of arms and documents, and arrested about 50 people, Amani said. After identity checks, some were released, but he did not say how many.

In one operation in northeast Kabul, he said, 100 rockets, some Egyptian and Chinese-made, were confiscated.

The account could not be verified independently.

Shah's brother serving 10-year sentence at Evin

By Alex Eby
The Associated Press

TEHRAN — Yamid Reza Pahlavi, a younger brother of the late Shah of Iran, grinned a toothless smile in the cell he shares with 23 other convicts in notorious Evin prison and said: "Things could be worse."

Speaking in broken English to a group of foreign reporters on a government-guided tour of the prison in north Tehran, Pahlavi said he was serving a 10-year sentence "for a family reason," but declined to be more specific.

He said he had seven more years to serve.

Pahlavi, wearing a white T-shirt and gray pajama trousers, lay sprawled on blankets spread on the cell floor. His cell had no bed and no other furniture.

Prison officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the prisoner had been discussed

as a drug addict by Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi before the February 1979 revolution that toppled the monarchy.

The Shah fled Iran a month earlier, with other family members. He underwent medical treatment for cancer in the United States, then went to Panama and on to Egypt where he died in July 1980.

The officials said Yamid Reza Pahlavi was arrested as a vagrant and imprisoned three years ago.

"We are well-treated here," said Pahlavi, 58. He added that he was kept busy "gardening and looking after roses."

Other inmates in his cell included a former general and senior officials of the Shah's government who refused to give their names.

The encounter with the Shah's brother was the highlight of Sunday's conducted tour arranged by the Ministry

of Islamic Guidance.

In a bizarre incident, a Danish reporter was attacked by a prison guard while the group was inspecting a block of empty cells.

"I was walking down a corridor when suddenly this man started shouting in Farsi and then pushed me into a cell and started beating me up," said Kurt Lyndorff, a correspondent for the Danish newspaper Jyllands Posten.

Later, the guard, a bearded, middle-aged man who refused to give his name, started shouting that all the reporters on the tour were Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and Soviet KGB agents.

The guard later apologized and said he pushed Lyndorff into a cell because the reporter had refused to identify himself as part of the group.

The journalists, most of whom were from Western

countries, were among a limited number allowed into Iran to cover the July 28 presidential elections.

The reporters were shown one of a dozen empty blocks of cells in the sprawling jail that held thousands of political prisoners in the Islamic revolution's early days.

Prison officials said the block was emptied after an amnesty declared in February during celebrations of the revolution's 10th anniversary.

Hundreds of "enemies of the revolution" reportedly were executed in the prison, set on a steep mountain slope in fashionable north Tehran, across a narrow wooded valley from a leading hotel, the Grand Azadi.

The reporters were shown another block containing 12 large cells, about 12 metres by nine metres, each with 24 inmates. Each had a television

set, but no furniture. The prisoners were sprawled on blankets, reading newspapers.

Officials escorting the journalists refused to say how many prisoners were in the jail. Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi said earlier at a news conference that the only political prisoners left in Evin were those serving life sentences for capital crimes.

Mohtashemi said most prisoners now were drug addicts or narcotics peddlers jailed during an anti-drug crackdown launched by the government in January.

The reporters also were shown the prison workshop, where inmates were making military uniforms and shoes.

The Guidance Ministry provided interpreters so reporters could converse with the prisoners. A few inmates spoke English.

All those interviewed said

they were jailed for political offences.

One prisoner who gave his name as Mohammad Aragi said he was a member of Iran's outlawed Tudeh Communist Party.

He said a revolutionary court sentenced him to death on charges of spying, for the Soviet Union, but his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment under another amnesty declared by Iran's late revolutionary patriarch, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Aragi, 56, said he also spent time in jail during the Shah's time for belonging to Tudeh but conditions were better under the Islamic government.

"Things were far worse in the days of the Shah," he said, speaking in Farsi through an interpreter. "Prison guards used to beat us all the time. Now we're well-treated and there are no beatings."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
15:50 Hi Squad
15:55 News for the Deaf
16:00 Religious programme
16:05 Health programme
16:10 Programme review
16:15 News in Arabic
16:20 Local series
16:25 Programme review
16:30 Local programme
16:35 News in Arabic
16:40 Arabic film

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Champs Elysees
17:40 News in French
17:45 Documentary
17:50 News in Hebrew
17:55 Varieties
18:00 News in Arabic
18:05 Bill Cosby Show
18:10 Beauty and the Beast
18:15 News in English
18:20 Fears film

PRAYER TIMES

04:19 Fajr
05:47 (Sunrise) Duha
12:42 Ohudh
16:32 'Asr
19:37 Maghreb
21:04 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifich
Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel.

637785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624390.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Ternassan Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623441.

Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel.
628541.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
711531.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
712611.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 711751.

American International Church Tel.
683266.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
811295.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of
Meteorology.

Normal summer weather is expected
and winds will be northwesterly mod-
erate. In Aqaba, winds will be north-
erly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Aqaba 20 / 31
Aqaba 25 / 37
Deserts 22 / 35
Jordan Valley 23 / 37

Yesterday's high temperature: Am-
man 31, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings:
Amman 39 per cent, Aqaba 35 per
cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE

Amman Municipality

NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mohammad Khalil 896294

Dr. Hisham Kanaan 796777

Dr. Hanna Mansour 740733

Dr. Wa'el Dimati 748000

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 776356

Al Asana pharmacy 637055

Natroukh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 646945

Yaacoub pharmacy 676660

Shamsi pharmacy 676660

IRBID:

Dr. Fadiyeh Al Jhour (—)

Al Shams pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Walid Halaeh (—)

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Rescue 199

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 62111, 637777

Fire Brigade 892228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Tel. Complaints 608080

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-33200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-33200

IRBID:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/2

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 66241/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malha, J. Amman 63140

Palestine, Shamsi 66417/4

Shamsi Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Musader Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666177/7

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26

Army, Marza 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602402/50

Amal Hospital 674155

Queen visits Ma'an

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor visited Ma'an Wednesday and toured the village of Dlagha, 50 kilometres west of the Ma'an Governorate. The Queen conveyed to the notables and people of Dlagha His Majesty King Hussein's regards and inspected the services available in the area.

Accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Hamzah, Queen Noor inaugurated the Social Centre, recently established by the Union of Voluntary Societies, and toured the health centre and the elementary school.

Queen Noor also inspected the nutrition centre, opened by the Ministry of Social Development and provides a daily hot meal for the children and students, and inquired about the health situation in the village.

Later Wednesday the Queen discussed with the people the prospects of opening new projects that are capable of overcoming their economic difficulties, and of upgrading their social, educational, and health situation. The chief of the village council delivered a speech, in which he welcomed Queen Noor and thanked her for her visit to the village.

He conveyed the gratitude and appreciation of the people for Queen Noor's donations to the

school and to the social centre. He noted that the Queen's efforts to provide the village with improved services and new facilities will surely contribute in the development of their living standards.

A playground has been constructed at the elementary school, and a secondary class will be made available for the village students by the beginning of the upcoming academic year.

Medical services have been rendered free of charge for the people, TV transmission has been improved and many of the basic services were made more accessible to the village.

Furthermore, sewing lessons will be offered to the women of Dlagha to enable them to become productive members of the society and improve their family incomes.

Accompanying Queen Noor during her visit were Minister of Health and Social Development Dr. Zuhair Mallas, Ma'an Governor Eid Qatameh, chief of police, Brigadier Eid Shihab, Col. Fawwaz Al Zaben, King Hussein's advisor for tribal affairs, Mr. Mohammad Squm, secretary general of the Ministry of Social Development, and Dr. Abdullah Al Khalib, secretary general of the General Union of Voluntary Societies.



Her Majesty Queen Noor meets women and children from Ma'an during a visit she paid to the area Wednesday (Petra photo)

Crown Prince, Ramadan open exhibition of Iraqi products

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-week exhibition of Iraqi products was opened Wednesday at the King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein Complex at Wadi Saqra Street by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan.

Prince Hassan and Ramadan toured the different parts of the exhibition and inspected various items on display.

According to Ministry of Industry and Trade officials here, the exhibition displays foodstuffs, textiles, electrical appliances, chemical and plastic products, handicrafts and another assortment of Iraqi products.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masadeh, a number of other ministers and officials as well as Iraqi embassy staff attended the opening ceremony.

Later, Mr. Hadi Taleh Ibrahim, commercial attaché at the Iraqi embassy here said that the exhibition, the second of its kind in the country, is aimed at intro-



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan Wednesday inspect the different sections of the exhibition of Iraqi products at the King Abdullah Complex in Amman (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

ducing the Iraqi goods and various export products to the Jordanian public.

The exhibition was organised in implementation of minutes of the joint Jordanian-Iraqi ministerial meeting held here earlier and with the purpose of bolstering Jordanian-Iraqi relations in trade and economic fields. Ibrahim noted in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Ibrahim paid tribute to the efforts of officials at the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Amman Development Corporation who helped to organise the exhibition.

He said that an exhibition of Jordanian products will be organised in Baghdad in September.

Later, Ramadan, who left for home, said that he delivered a

verbal message to His Majesty King Hussein from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Ramadan said he was happy that the visit offered him the chance to meet with the King and Prince Hassan to review a number of pan-Arab and international issues as well as means of bolstering cooperation among the four member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) of which Iraq and Jordan are members.

The talks also covered the ACC's coming meeting in Sanaa and were identical on all topics discussed. The views of both sides were identical on various topics, Ramadan noted in his pre-departure statement.

Referring to the Lebanese question and the work of the three member committee

appointed by the Arab League to find a peaceful formula for Lebanon, Ramadan said that both King Hussein and President Hussein are in agreement on the need for the heads of Arab countries to take a collective measure to save Lebanon and protect its national sovereignty.

He said that the Palestine question and developments in the occupied Arab lands came under review in his meeting with the King with whom he also discussed cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Chief of the Royal Court Thaqan Hindawi, several cabinet members and other officials and high ranking army officers were at the airport to bid farewell to the Iraqi minister.

Centres for organising flow of bridge travellers to close

AMMAN (J.T.) — The three centres opened in Jordan last month to organise travel to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will close down as of Sunday Aug. 6, 1989, according to a statement by the Public Security Department (PSD) here Wednesday.

The statement said that the centres will be closed in view of the decline in the number of travellers who, from now on can go directly to the bridges for their trip across the bridges to the West Bank.

The three centres — in Amman, Zarqa and Irbid — had to be opened in view of the large

number of people that used to throng the terminals at the bridges wishing to cross into the occupied West Bank.

Travellers normally make their visits during the summer holidays and many of them come from the Gulf states where they are employed.

Earlier this summer, the Israeli authorities turned away many of the travellers drastically reducing the normal number of people who cross to the West Bank, thus complicating matters for the Jordanian authorities at the bridges and prompting the opening of the three centres to organise travel.

ACC health ministers to meet in Baghdad

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Ministers from the four member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) will hold a meeting in Baghdad Thursday to discuss coordination among the four countries in health related affairs. An official announcement here Wednesday said that the several-day meeting will focus on such areas as environmental health,

examination of non-national workers arriving in the country for work, developing health systems in the four countries and statistical systems in force.

Health Minister Zuhair Mallas will be joined at the meeting in Baghdad with his counterparts in Egypt, North Yemen and Iraq. Mallas is expected to leave for the Iraqi capital Thursday.

Khayyat urges emulation of lessons from history

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Khayyat Wednesday called on Jordanians to draw from the examples set by early Muslims who faced a number of hardships.

"We are a nation facing the Israeli enemy who will do everything to weaken Jordan," the minister told a gathering at Al Hussein Mosque on the occasion of the Islamic New Year.

Khayyat called on the faithful to strictly adhere to the teachings of Islam and to refrain from doing

anything that would undermine the effort to recover the occupied territories.

"On the anniversary, we pray that God preserve this country, its people and stability under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein," the minister said.

The grand mufti of Jordan, Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi, also addressed the gathering reviewing the importance of the anniversary and paying tribute to the steadfastness of the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

ACC agricultural experts discuss cooperation

CAIRO (Petra) — Agricultural experts from Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen, the four member countries of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), are holding meetings in Cairo to discuss cooperation among their countries in the fishing industry.

Dr. Youssef Wali, minister of agriculture, met with the team of the experts from the four countries and reviewed the outcome of their meetings which started three days ago. He said that the cooperation in the fields of agriculture and fisheries is bound to help the four countries attain food self-sufficiency.



Prince Abdullah attends badia ceremony

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein Wednesday attended a ceremony at the Badia Police Headquarters marking the start of two training courses for police officers.

The Badia Police commander delivered a speech outlining the training courses and duties of the units. He said 76 officers will take part in the

training courses which will last seven weeks.

The participants will receive theoretical and practical training on all types of light weapons, first aid, combat tactics and communications.

Later, Prince Abdullah watched a training exercise in which troops displayed their different combat skills. Senior Public Security Department officials and police officers were present at the ceremony and the exercises.

Workshop to orient kindergartens teachers in teaching mathematics

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Association for the Education of Children, which is sponsored by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), will organise a workshop on Saturday, Aug. 5, 1989, to orient Jordanian teachers on methods for teaching mathematics in the pre-school stage.

Altogether a total of 30 teachers and headmasters representing kindergartens in the Amman region will take part in the workshop.

The association, which has a total of 185 members and has branches in Aqaba and Irbid, was established by the centre for early childhood education in 1986.

The workshop is designed to help the kindergarten teachers to improve their skill and performance in imparting basic education to the children at this stage.

The centre is being sponsored by the NHF in cooperation with the University of Jordan, which appropriated a site in its campus

for its establishment at the cost of nearly \$1 million, nearly half of which has been raised in various contributions.

NHF has already begun formal implementation of the first phase of the project preparing staff for the centre and organising a series of training courses for teachers at the nursery and kindergarten levels.

In addition, NHF has dispatched

several Jordanians abroad for specialised training and academic degrees in early childhood education.

National Association for the Education of the Child membership consists of institutions and individuals concerned with early childhood, and will serve as a coordinating and advisory body for the centre's activities.

Amman-Damascus rail

AMMAN (Petra) — Arrangements are under way for reactivating travel by rail between Jordan and Damascus by rail through joint cooperation between the Jordanian and Syrian governments, according to an announcement by Minister of Transport Hikmat Al Khammash.

Khammash made the statement during his talks Wednesday with the director general of the

Jordan Hijaz Railway Line with whom he reviewed means of boosting travel by rail between Jordan and Syria.

Trains commuting between the two countries, the minister noted, will be transporting goods, and passengers in implementation of resolutions taken by the joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee which met recently in Damascus.

Jordanian youths end 5-day camp

AMMAN (Petra) — A five-day youth camp for Jordanian students living abroad ended at Ajloun Wednesday.

The Ministry of Youth had organised the event to enable the young students to take part in useful activities in Jordan and learn more about their home country.

Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat addressed the closing meeting underscoring the importance of such gathering which included seminars, lectures, panel discussions and field trips to various cultural areas and archaeological sites.



Samra receives Indian envoy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Indian Ambassador to Jordan K. Gajendra called at the University of Jordan and met with its President Mahmoud Al Samra. They discussed means of developing cultural and scientific cooperation between Jordanian and Indian universities.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CONDOLENCES TO AL JAZI FAMILY: His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday delegated his advisor for tribal affairs Sharif Zaban to convey condolences to the Al Jazi family on the death of late Shibah Safouq Al Jazi. (Petra)

TOURIST CAMP IN AMMAN: The Greater Amman Municipality announced Wednesday that it has set up a permanent site for a 15-dunum camp within the Amman National Park. It said that the camp was used for the first time Wednesday by a group of scouts visiting Jordan from a number of Islamic nations. According to the announcement, the municipality has provided all basic facilities and services including a restaurant and a kitchen, a parking area and sanitary utilities and other services. The group of Muslim scouts have spent 10 days in the country. (Petra)

RED CROSS OFFICIALS MEET: A delegation representing the Red Cross in West Germany arrived in Amman Wednesday on a five-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, the delegation will hold talks with Jordan National Red Crescent Society President Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura and other Red Crescent officials on the means to develop bilateral cooperation between Jordan and West Germany. (Petra)

Post offices to accept university applications

AMMAN (Petra) — Students who wish to apply for seats at any of four Jordanian universities will have to channel their applications through the post offices around the country, according to an announcement here Wednesday.

The announcement, made by the registrars of the four universities at a press conference held in Amman, said that the post offices will start accepting the applications as of Saturday Aug. 6 and until Aug. 15.



Omarieh students visit University of Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation of students from the Omarieh Schools visited the University of Jordan Wednesday and toured the campus, visiting the archaeological museum and other areas.

The 36 students who are currently taking summer courses were briefed on the various items and antiquities stored at the museum, and later met with a number of university officials.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ A plastic arts exhibition by the Student Affairs Department's Painting Club of the Yarmouk University at the Homing Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of cartoons by the late Jordanian artist Rahab Saghyar at the Plastic Artists Association, Shmeisani.
- ★ A graphic art exhibition by students of Fine Arts Department at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An exhibition of natural rose saplings at the Royal Cultural Centre.

THEATRE

- ★ An Arabic play entitled "Thamam Thil" at the Roman Amphitheatre downtown Amman — 8:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

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Call a spade a spade in Lebanon

IT WOULD be presumptuous on behalf of any party to even suggest to the Higher Arab Committee on Lebanon how to prepare its projected report on its aborted mission to end the crisis in Lebanon. The fact that the said committee is determined to submit its report on its efforts to resolve the Lebanese situation is a good omen and may yet prove to be the very catalyst for a fresh and effective Arab attempt to end the violence in Lebanon and begin the process of healing in that country. That is why considerable importance is attached to the anticipated report.

Yet, the great hopes that were generated by the news that a report on Lebanon would be forthcoming would be dashed if the contents of any such report were not candid enough. There is an unfortunate tendency in inter-Arab diplomacy to sugar-coat differences and white-wash blame. After 15 years of carnage in Lebanon, it is high time to call a spade a spade and spell out the real reasons that aborted the Arab mission in Lebanon. As long as inter-Arab diplomacy continues to gloss over hard-core issues in Lebanon and avoids addressing differences of position head on, then there is but one fate that awaits Arab efforts in that country, namely, permanent failure. And everybody knows that a permanent Arab failure in Lebanon would necessarily mean the miscarriage of a permanent solution in that country for as long as we can see. For even if the international community, through the U.N. Security Council, decides to take the bull by the horns in Lebanon it would still need full Arab cooperation to succeed.

What makes the preparation of the Higher Arab Committee's report appear formidable is the proposition that in the Lebanese dilemma there is no absolute guilt or innocence among the parties. For it would be fair to conclude that all parties to the Lebanese catastrophe are responsible in varying degrees for the ongoing tragedy. Still such truism could at the end be a blessing in disguise and make it easier for the committee to speak out more openly than ever. For if it adopts the view that all parties in Lebanon are collectively guilty, then it should be possible for it to point out in utmost frankness how and where each and every party is at fault. Once the nature of the wrong-doing of each party is determined and detailed, then it would become feasible to apply the necessary antidotes for it. The upshot then of the Higher Arab Committee's report should be to speak out in an uncertain terms about the responsibility of each and every actor in the Lebanese scene.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily commented Wednesday on King Hussein's visit to Saudi Arabia and his talks with King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz on issues of mutual concern and Arab affairs. The Arabic daily said that the two monarchs have been spearheading all pan-Arab actions and both have pledged continued support for endeavours to serve the Arab cause. Saudi Arabia has always lent support and backing to Jordan's efforts at all levels and specially in matters where the Arab order is concerned and in the face of the common enemy, the paper noted. Saudi Arabia realises that it is of the utmost importance at the moment to come to the aid of Jordan in its struggle to fend off pressure and deal with conspiracies designed to undermine its national stand, said the daily. Any Saudi Arabian support for Jordan is part of the ongoing endeavours for protecting the Arab order and safeguarding the Arab national interest, the paper added. It said that there is no alternative to a stable and progressing Jordan which can rightly and strongly confront the conspiracies and can and must guard against plots being hatched against the Arab Nation. King Hussein's visit to Saudi Arabia therefore reflects the strong relationship between the two countries and can only contribute to the ongoing efforts to bolster pan-Arab solidarity.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily blames the current escalation of violence in the Middle East in general and Lebanon in particular to Israel's terrorist actions against Arab people and Arab countries. It is clear that Israeli leaders are seeking to keep the whole region in turmoil to divert world public attention from the deteriorating situation in the occupied Arab lands, says Tareq Masarweh. It is also in Israel's interest that the world should deal with developments in Lebanon and forget all about the Palestinians and their struggle for freedom, and about the need to evict Israeli forces from the Arab lands to achieve a permanent peace, the writer notes. He says that Israel's abduction of the Shi'ite Sheikh from Lebanon, prompting Islamic groups to take counter actions including the killing of Colonel William Higgins, is part of the Zionist game which also aims to press these groups to kill more hostages and arouse Western outrage against the Arabs. The Israelis also aim to bring the Americans back to the Arab area with the hope that Israel's interests can be safeguarded and that Arab forces can be destroyed, the writer adds. It is quite natural, he notes, that extremist groups will take to the arena in this game and it is natural to see more innocent lives exterminated.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented on the failure of the Arab League mediation committee to find a formula to end the war in Lebanon. The paper said that the three-member committee has now stopped its efforts and declared its total failure to reach common ground with the warring parties so that peace can be established. The announcement brought further pain not to the Lebanese alone, but also to the Arab World at large since this means that the warring factions in Lebanon will continue the process of self-destruction, the paper added. This sad development coupled with Israel's actions and the United States decisions to take action in Lebanon, can only throw a dark cloud over the future of the whole region and does not augur well for the Arab World, the paper noted. It said that Israel seems so powerful only because the Arabs are weak and not united and their forces are in disarray.

Spanish bridge to the Middle East

By John Hooper

SPAIN'S presidency of the European Community drew to a close with the meeting of its leaders in Madrid on 26-27 June. There they agreed a statement on the Middle East which endorsed the main lines of Spain's attempts during the past six months to pave the way for the peace-making process. The community leaders made an "urgent call" to Israel to end its repressive measures against the Palestinians in the occupied territories and to reopen the schools there. While welcoming Israel's proposals for elections in the territories, they stressed that the inhabitants of East Jerusalem should be permitted to participate, and they backed the PLO's "participation" in direct negotiations, which represented a move by the community from its earlier calls for the PLO to be "associated" with peace moves. The statement will have given satisfaction to the summit meeting's hosts as the Spanish believed that during their presidency they could make a positive contribution to the solution of the Middle East imbroglio.

Among European nations, Spain has a uniquely intimate — if highlighted — relationship with both Arabs and Jews. But during the years it remained isolated from the rest of the continent it was impossible for that relationship to be put in use in service of Western peace-making. Spain's first spell of presidency has not only put the seal on its reincorporation into Europe, but also demonstrated the extent to which Spanish diplomats can offer Europe bridges into the Middle East.

The relationship with Muslims and Jews

The Iberian peninsula was home to one of the earliest and largest Jewish communities in Europe. It was also the only substantial part of mainland Europe to be conquered by the Arabs, whose Moorish successors went on to rule a progressively smaller part of it for almost eight centuries.

The expulsion of the Jews in 1492 and the subsequent brutal persecution of allegedly false converts by the Inquisition puts Spain in an apparently similar position to Germany; but with the difference that Spain's "holocaust" took place five centuries, rather than five decades ago, so that feelings of guilt on the one side and bitterness on the other have largely evaporated.

Insofar as the Muslims are concerned, perhaps the closest parallel is with Greece and the other Balkan states incorporated into the Ottoman Empire. The paradoxical legacy can be gauged from a Spanish dictionary. *Hubo Moros y Cristianos* ("there were Moors and Christians") is a way of saying "there was a hell of a fight," while *hay Moros en la costa* ("there are Moors on the coast") is a way of warning someone to take care — living idiomatic evidence of the centuries of struggle between Christians and Muslims in Spain during the Reconquest, and of the persistence of conflict after Spain's Muslim refugees resurfaced in history as the "Barbary Corsairs."

At the same time, *prometer el oro y el Moro* (literally, "to promise the gold and the Moor") means to promise the earth — an acknowledgement that, for most of the time they were in Spain, the Muslims were associated by the Christians with unattainable wealth. In Andalusia particularly, there has been a growing tendency in recent years to look back on Muslim rule as a golden age in Spain's history. Such thinking has coincided with the conversion of several thousand Christian-born Spaniards to Islam.

Underlying attitudes to Jews and Muslims alike, there is the knowledge that the blood of both runs deep in this superficially most Christian of nations. St. Teresa of Avila was the granddaughter of a Jewish convert. Inter-marriage was common between Christian and Muslim, but then in Muslim Spain the non-indigenous population of Arabs and Berbers overlaid an indigenous one, by no means all of whose members retained their original religion. The identification of "Muslim" with "Moor" in colloquial speech is misleading. Serious historians prefer to speak of "Muslim Spaniards" and that is increasingly the usage among educated people today.

In modern times, this tangle of antecedents has translated diplomatically into open sympathy for the Arab cause against a background of often courageous support for distressed Jewish communities. After General Franco's offer to recognise Israel was rejected on ideological grounds by an Israeli Labour government in the 1950s, he found it convenient to back anti-Zionism in return for the Arabs' backing over Gibraltar. Yet Franco retained what can only be described as a "soft spot" for the Jews.

The post-Franco policy

Until a few months ago, Spain's policy towards the Middle East was in essence an adaptation of Franco's outlook to the exigencies of Common Market membership. Spain, which recognised the PLO in 1977, and raised the status of its Madrid office to something approximating that of an embassy in 1986, did not recognise Israel until January of that year when diplomatic relations became a necessity following Spain's entry into the community. One of the guiding principles of

the community is that members should strive to align their foreign policies. In the run-up to recognition, though, a major effort was made to inform the Arab countries of the reasons behind the decision. Even after that, an annex was attached to the treaty of recognition setting out Spain's distinct position.

Relations with Israel remain far from complete. Neither head of state has yet visited the other's country, and Mr. Shamir's visit to Madrid last May was the first by a prime minister of either nation to the other. Mr. Shamir did not even get a joint press conference with Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, let alone a private lunch or dinner with him, much less an audience with the king. The contrast with the visit three months earlier by Yasser Arafat, who was treated almost like a head of state, and who saw both the king and Mr. Gonzalez, was striking.

Spain's objective, say officials, is to complete an initial round of official state visits with a visit by King Juan Carlos to Israel in 1992, the 500th anniversary of the expulsions. Gradually improved relations with Israel, it is felt, could advance rather than hinder the other main aim of Spain's Middle Eastern policy, which is to do what it can to promote a settlement acceptable to both sides. Its diplomats' influence and access were recognised at the end of September 1988, when the counsellor and acting charge d'affaires, at the Spanish embassy in Tunis, Juan Mamel Lopez Nadal, set up the first meeting between a U.S. diplomat and a PLO leader — Mr. Khalid Al Fuhum, head of the PLO political department's European section.

According to official sources, the meeting was inspired by a phone call from the first secretary of the U.S. embassy to Lopez Nadal asking him to arrange it. From September onwards, the

Spanish tried without success to get the EEC to initiate contacts with the PLO leader in the hope of persuading him of the advantages of moderation. Much to the frustration of Spanish officials at the foreign ministry, their proposal was blocked by the U.K., West Germany and the Netherlands, until the U.S. declared its hand in mid-December.

The Spanish contribution

The subsequent turnaround in community policy, coming shortly before the start of Spain's presidency on 5 January, did however allow Madrid to help put new life into the community's Middle East diplomacy. Officials see the Spanish-led efforts over the past six months as having fallen into two phases.

The first began, perhaps surprisingly, with a visit to Israel by Spain's foreign minister, Francisco Fernandez Ordonez. The aim, his officials say, was to ensure that the Israelis did not take against the EEC's initiative from the start. At that time, Spain, together with the other members of the so-called "troika", Greece (the previous president of the community) and France (the next country due to occupy the chair), were planning an extensive tour of the Arab countries most closely involved — Jordan, Egypt and Syria.

The first phase ended with Mr. Arafat's historic visit to Madrid on 27 January, where he held talks with the three countries' foreign ministers. Since then, with the exception of Mr. Shamir's visit, and talks between the "troika" foreign ministers and U.S. Secretary of State Baker in Vienna, the contacts have been at a lower level. The most important was a visit by the directors-general of the "troika" foreign ministries to Moscow. The impression given is that the EEC's initiative

has been running out of momentum.

Spanish diplomats stress that the EEC has no peace plan of its own, nor any desire to impose one. Their aim, therefore, has been to act as go-betweens — identifying areas where the demands of the major players are sufficiently close to raise hopes of a compromise, then persuading them to moderate their positions enough for them to overlap, or at least touch. They point to a succession of subtle changes over the past six months which, it is implied, owe something to community diplomacy coordinated by Spain. The U.S. has become less hostile to an international conference, just as the Soviet Union has become less wary of Israel's peace plan. Previously, neither wanted to know. Now the U.S. says that a conference must be at the right time and properly prepared, while the Soviet Union is prepared, if not to welcome, then at least to consider, the Shamir plan. Both superpowers, moreover, have undertaken to urge moderation on those whom they can influence. President Bush's administration has done some straight talking to America's Jewish community. The Soviet Union gave the EEC directors-general a message for them to take to Syria.

Perhaps most important of all, the last six months have seen considerable progress within the community towards a genuinely united position. It is easy to forget that just over six months ago one of the twelve, Greece, had to be talked out of "going it alone" in recognising the Palestinian state. Spain's contribution to persuading Greece may have been regretted in Arab capitals. But, said one Spanish official of the EEC's initiative, "you can't expect other people to define their positions if your own is inconsistent" — Middle East International, London.

Romania: consumer shortages persist

By Alison Smale
The Associated Press

CLUJ, Romania — On a languid Sunday in this once-glorious city, a foreign car is the centre of attention as it pulls into the long evening shadow of the medieval cathedral.

From a safe distance, mindful of laws that mandate the reporting of any unauthorised conversations with foreigners, everyone stares.

A father leans over to his son, murmuring that, in English, the man behind the steering wheel is a "driver."

A bolder spirit, a well-dressed woman, approaches the strangers, asking in flawless French if they will change money. Crisfallen, she melts back into the shadows upon hearing their refusal.

In a nearby cafe, in a scene repeated across Romania, a waitress wearily explains to the foreigners that there are no snacks, no coffee, no tea and no mineral water.

Just "SOC" (chemical-tasting coloured water), she says, as an ageing band grinds out slow, almost blues-style versions of Hungarian ballads and other unsmiling guests engage in barely audible chatter and drink free-flowing "cognac."

Romania 1989: A European country where European visitors are an object of suspicion for

authorities and mute curiosity for friendly but frightened citizens.

In Cluj and countless other towns, stylish but shoddily built apartments sprout in record time, while old villages crumble away, depopulating "naturally" as their lone stores and schoolhouses are closed.

Across the fertile land, rationing is in force. Food stores grow barter with each year of what President Nicolae Ceausescu calls a "golden era." Yet officials, burling statistics about Romania's advances, assure foreigners the meat they cannot see on shelves is available, just stored in refrigerators.

Last winter, the fifth in a row of government-imposed energy rationing, six Communists who once held very senior posts implored Ceausescu to change course.

"Romania is and remains a European country," they insisted in a letter that later reached the West. "You started changing the geography of the countryside, but you cannot remove Romania to Africa."

The 71-year-old president, the visibly healthy and unchallenged ruler since 1965, swiftly squashed the protest before it had any chance of spreading to other party members.

Mircea Radeanu, the adopted son of one of the six and a senior diplomat who served six years in

the United States, was arrested and charged with treason as media articles and rallies rained home the dangers of contact with foreigners.

No one knows where Radeanu is, and a question about him clearly rattled officials at a news conference in July during the Warsaw Pact summit in Bucharest.

Same fate

Authors of other protests share this fate, according to Romanian emigres and Western diplomats. Former Cluj University professor Domna Cornea has not been seen since June 6, following her third protest letter to Ceausescu.

Writers Andrei Plesu and Mircea Dinescu were under virtual house arrest after penning their own protests. Another writer, Dan Deslu, spent two weeks in a Bucharest mental hospital for his dissent.

State policies have cut deep into the peasant traditions and the culture and mutual tolerance nurtured for centuries by 1.7 million ethnic Hungarians and 200,000 Germans in the rolling hills of Transylvania.

In German villages, freshly painted lettering over courtyard gates proudly proclaims the family of the owner and the date the house was built. In Cluj, Hungarian-language theatre and other culture still thrive, to judge by

advertising posters.

But the city's Hungarian consulate was closed last year in the escalating war of words between Bucharest and Budapest, whose traditional rivalry over Transylvania is exacerbated by sharp ideological divisions over Communism's future.

A Cluj schoolteacher now in Hungary, one of thousands of such refugees from Romania, tearfully recalled how efforts to preserve vestiges of Hungarian tradition in class were slowly eroded by reprintings and the appearance of more and more Romanian-speaking pupils.

Transylvania's ethnic Germans, who have tilled the fertile soil for centuries, are emigrating at the rate of 13,000 to 15,000 a year — and would go faster if Romania let them.

Fear of endangering this emigration once minted West German protest at Romania's human-rights record. Now, Bonn is as outspoken as other capitals, and diplomats say emigration has not suffered.

Ceausescu also is isolated from most East Bloc nations.

Ceausescu claims his brand of government offers more social security, modernity and Marxist equality than Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's reforms or Hungary's open dash toward free elections and a free-market economy.

Figures

As proof, his supporters list statistical claims: — that living standards are 185 times higher than in 1945, 675,000 new apartments are available under this five-year plan, industrial investments will increase 90 per cent, and the annual harvest will surge from 30 million to 40 million tonnes a year by 1995.

Romanian officials boast of their unique feat of repaying the nation's entire foreign debt — \$11 billion from 1980 to last March. But they fail to mention the cost in shortages caused by food exports from this bountiful land, and consumers have noticed no recent improvement in the stores.

Credit for paying off the debt and all other achievements goes to Ceausescu, who is the object of a strong personality cult and has installed several close relatives — including his wife, son and brother — in powerful positions. He, in turn, credits Communism.

"We can and must assert most powerfully that only socialism could make such grandiose and wonderful achievements of our nation possible," Ceausescu insisted June 27 at a Communist Party meeting.

He emphasised that private ownership, small farms and the encouragement of profit-seeking entrepreneurs are not Commun-

ism. Neither are "any attempts to denigrate socialism."

Western diplomats in Bucharest say Ceausescu has cited to visitors the crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in China or the death of protesters in the Soviet city of Tbilisi in April as evidence his policies are correct. His reasoning is that he does not kill, and criticism of Romania's human rights is therefore misplaced.

Given the grip of the Securitate, and the disappearance of the leaders of a spontaneous protest by 10,000 workers in November 1987, few expect popular unrest to erupt.

Romania has weak democratic traditions — a favourite proverb has it that "A stooped back cannot be broken by a sword" — and outside influences that might stir mass protest are few.

Ceausescu, once an inveterate traveller courted in the White House and Buckingham Palace as a Communist maverick, has made no trips abroad this year, and receives no top visitors from the West these days.

Western diplomats report that even Romanian officials or intellectuals who once were permitted carefully reported contacts with foreigners have all but stopped attending embassy parties.

There are no Western or even Soviet Bloc newspapers on sale to the general public.

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مطعم الأمل

SEPT / SEPT

Après une période de calme relatif, quant au sort des OTAGES ÉTRANGERS AU LIBAN, l'exécution du colonel américain William Richard Higgins lundi a fait renaitre une immense tension et une vive inquiétude dans les pays dont des ressortissants sont toujours retenus, et en premier lieu aux États-Unis. Revendiqué par «l'organisation des opprimés dans le monde», l'assassinat du colonel Higgins s'est accompagné d'une nouvelle menace à l'encontre de l'envoyé spécial de l'archevêque de Canterbury, Terry Waite. Arrivé à échec mardi sans nouveau communiqué des ravisseurs, l'ultimatum a été relayé le jour même par celui de l'organisation de la justice révolutionnaire, entre mouvement pro-iranien proche du Hezbollah, à l'encontre de l'américain Joseph James Cicippio. Ultimatum qui selon l'OJR prend fin aujourd'hui. Provoquée par l'enlèvement du cheikh Abdel Karim Obeid vendredi au Liban-Sud par un commando israélien, la mort de l'un des 18 otages occidentaux supposés se trouver entre les mains des milices pro-iraniennes met Tel-Aviv sous le feu des critiques de l'opinion américaine mais aussi de certains membres du congrès. Bien que seuls trois pays occidentaux (États-Unis, Grande-Bretagne et Suisse) aient officiellement condamné dès le week-end le kidnapping de l'influent imam de Jibchit, rares sont ceux qui persistent encore à croire que cette opération a joué le rôle «dissuasif» ni même porté le «coup indéniable» au Hezbollah, que lui attribuait samedi le colonel Raanan Gissin, porte-parole de l'armée israélienne. Il est tout aussi difficile d'imaginer que l'État hébreu ait pu penser un seul instant que la vie des otages au Liban ne servirait pas de monnaie d'échange. Le premier ministre israélien Yitzhak Shamir l'a bien senti, qui offrait dès lundi d'échanger plus de cent cinquante prisonniers libanais, dont le cheikh Obeid, contre trois soldats de Tsahal et tous les otages occidentaux. Proposition refusée par les ravisseurs, et qui montre, cruellement, les limites de la force israélienne tout en incitant nombre d'observateurs à estimer que Tel Aviv a commis là une terrible erreur.

Le premier anniversaire de la RUPTURE ENTRE LA CISJORDANIE ET LA JORDANIE a pour sa part été commenté avec satisfaction par le gouvernement jordanien ainsi que par l'O.L.P. Le ministre des Affaires étrangères, Marwan al-Kassem a notamment souligné dimanche que les relations jordaniano-palestiniennes étaient «entrées dans une nouvelle phase marquée par la confiance mutuelle, le respect et l'attachement au bien national des deux parties». De son côté, la centrale palestinienne, par la voix de son responsable des affaires économiques, a estimé que la décision du roi Hussein n'avait pas lourdement affecté la situation dans les territoires, et indiqué que l'O.L.P. avait décidé de «palier le vide» et de prendre en charge «des salaires des 23.000 fonctionnaires» antérieurement employés par Amman. Le représentant de l'O.L.P. a néanmoins déploré «le manque d'empressement» des pays arabes à «acquiescer de leur devoir» d'assistance financière à l'égard des habitants de Cisjordanie. (D'après agences).

EN BREF

Elections. Le ministre de l'Information, Nassouh Al-Majali, a indiqué lundi que les élections législatives se dérouleront «à la mi-novembre». S'exprimant au cours d'un déjeuner de presse, il a précisé que «le processus [conduisant au scrutin] était désormais enclenché, après la signature du décret par le roi Hussein». Le souverain hachémite, avait annoncé dimanche son «avoir» ordonné «l'organisation d'élections législatives». Par ailleurs, les ministres de l'Economie, Taher al-Masri, des Travaux publics et de l'Habitat, Chafic Zawaydeh, et de l'Éducation, Abdallah Nsour, ainsi que le maire d'Amman, Abdel Raouf Al-Rawabdeh, ont annoncé cette semaine leur intention d'être candidats à la députation.

Visite américaine. Le secrétaire d'État adjoint américain pour le Proche-Orient et l'Asie du Sud-Ouest, John Kelly, est attendu dimanche prochain à Amman, à l'occasion d'une tournée régionale, la première depuis son entrée en fonction. M. Kelly séjournera quarante huit heures dans la capitale où il sera reçu par le roi Hussein.

...et royale. Le roi Carl Gustav de Suède et la reine Silvia effectueront un voyage officiel de quatre jours à Amman, à partir du 18 septembre prochain, suivi d'un séjour privé de six jours à Aqaba. Il s'agit de la première visite des souverains suédois en Jordanie.

20%. Les autorités jordanienues ont décidé mardi d'augmenter de 20% les prix des billets d'avion délivrés par toutes les compagnies opérant dans le royaume. Selon un responsable de la Royal Jordanian, cette mesure, qui entrera en vigueur lundi prochain, «répond à une recommandation du comité des représentants des compagnies aériennes opérant ou représentées en Jordanie, et aux directives de l'Organisation internationale du transport aérien, IATA». Les billets d'avion avaient déjà été majorés de 3% en novembre dernier, après l'adoption d'une série de mesures d'austérité dues à la dépréciation du dinar, qui a perdu plus de 50% de sa valeur depuis avril 1988.

Aide. Le programme des Nations-Unies pour le développement économique (PNUD) et le fonds arabe de développement économique et social ont décidé d'octroyer une aide technique d'un montant de 700.000 dollars à la Jordanie, pour le financement d'un projet d'administration et de planification des sources d'eau dans le royaume. Selon les termes de l'accord, signé lundi à Amman par le ministre du Plan, Ziad Fariz, et le représentant du PNUD en Jordanie, Ali Atika, des spécialistes rattachés au ministère de l'Eau et de l'Irrigation bénéficieront notamment d'un entraînement sous la conduite d'experts des Nations-Unies.

Sommeil party. Une cinquantaine de personnes en chemises de nuit et pyjamas ont participé durant la nuit de samedi à dimanche à une «sommeil party» en plein air sur la grande place de la ville de Berga, en Espagne. Les participants s'étaient munis de tous les ustensiles nécessaires à la compétition: lits, matelas, oreillers, tables de nuit... L'association «La Bauma dels encantats», à l'origine du concours, a remis un prix au plus fort ronfleur, un sommeil le plus long et à la chambre improvisée la plus spectaculaire.

Greenpeace. Quatre navires de l'organisation écologiste Greenpeace ont empêché, vendredi, un essai de lancement du missile stratégique américain Trident 2, en pénétrant dans la zone d'où il devait être tiré, au large du Cap Canaveral, en Floride. Les bateaux de Greenpeace ont harcelé pendant plusieurs heures le sous-marin USS Tennessee, d'où devait être lancé le missile, et leurs passagers ont pu y accrocher deux banderoles réclamant des «mers débarrassées du nucléaire».

Profit record. La compagnie aérienne Kuwait Airways a réalisé un profit record de plus de 52 millions de dollars entre juin 1988 et juin 1989, a annoncé ce week-end son P-d-g. Selon Ahmed al-Machani, il s'agit du plus important bénéfice jamais réalisé par l'entreprise nationale depuis sa création en 1960.

Léonard-Duran III. Le boxeur américain Ray Sugar Léonard et le Panaméen Roberto Duran s'affronteront en plein air et pour la troisième fois le 7 décembre à l'Hôtel-Casino «Mirage» de Las Vegas pour le titre mondial des super-moyens (WBC). L'organisateur du combat, Bob Arum, n'a pas précisé si le short à strass serait exigé à l'entrée.

Ble. L'Australie va fournir 800.000 tonnes de blé au Yémen du Sud au cours des cinq années à venir, a indiqué lundi le président du bureau australien du blé (BAB), Clinton Condon. Condition posée par le BAB: l'autorisation de construire une usine de transformation du blé dans le port d'Aden, pour un investissement du gouvernement sud-yéménite estimé à 15 millions de dollars.

Parcs d'attractions

manèges qui tournent plus ou moins rond

Roulez jeunesse et troisième âge!
Depuis la création en 1975 du premier parc d'attractions à Amman, l'engouement des Jordaniens pour les émotions fortes et le pop corn ne s'est jamais démenti. L'ouverture l'an dernier d'un grand centre de loisirs au nord de la capitale en témoigne, même si, de l'aveu des professionnels, la crise économique assombrit l'avenir.

«En voiture... Attention au départ! On rit, on s'amuse». Non, l'ambiance des parcs d'attractions jordanienues ne résonne pas comme celle des foires et autres fêtes foraines européennes. Pas de femme à la voix rauque, hêlant le badaud, pas de promesse, quelques mètres plus loin, de «sensations inoubliables», de «pour une atmosphère magique de fête».

Et ce quodidienement. Qu'il s'agisse du parc Al-Ahli, en vieille ville, ou de la grande et récente «cité» Al-Joubaila d'Abou Nseir au nord d'Amman. Au rythme de 1.000 à 2.000 visiteurs par jour pour le premier, et d'environ 3.000 pour la deuxième, les deux principales fêtes foraines permanentes du royaume témoignent de l'engouement des Jordaniens pour la giserie des «balançoires des temps modernes».

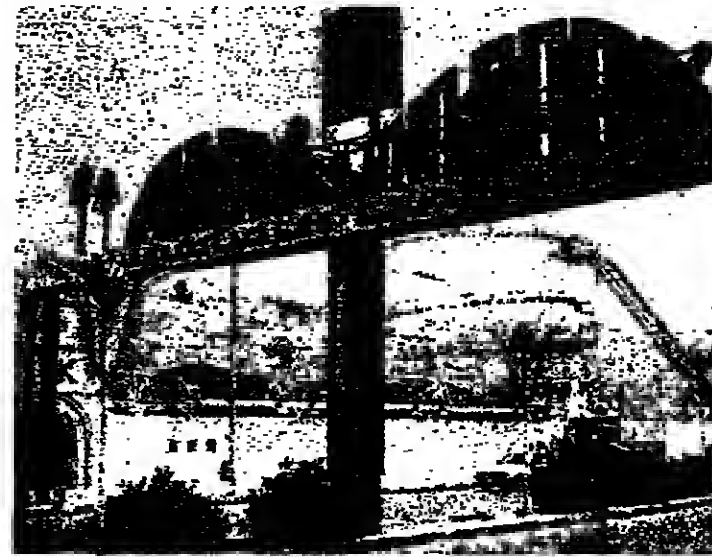
Un engouement qui draine plus de six mois sur douze, vers les rumeurs et les cris, familles et groupes de jeunes, amateurs de vertiges, de Pepsi et de pop corn, à défaut de barbe à papa et autres

pommes d'amour. «L'envie de s'amuser est universelle», commente Issa Abou Walid, directeur d'Al-Ahli. Et tenace. «Nous avons ouvert le parc en 1975, pour contribuer au financement des équipes de football, de basket... du club Al-Ahli, se souvient-il à l'époque, nous n'avions que deux manèges».

L'assaut du public a fait le reste. Aujourd'hui, dix attractions, depuis l'éternelle grande roue jusqu'au «bateau pirate», en passant par le train fantôme, constituent le fond d'émodons fortes de la première fête foraine du royaume, et se bousculent sur 9 dunams (9.000 mètres carrés) entre la route et Djebel Amman.

900.000 visiteurs

On est bien loin des six hectares et demi dont dispose Al-Joubaila. Inaugurée en juin 1988, la dernière née des fêtes foraines est aussi la plus grande, «et d'ores et déjà le site le plus visité de Jordanie», clame son



Le parc Al-Ahli en vieille ville... et en perte de vitesse (à gauche); la folie des hauteurs à Al-Joubaila (à droite).



Le parc Al-Ahli en vieille ville... et en perte de vitesse (à gauche); la folie des hauteurs à Al-Joubaila (à droite).

directeur général, John Allan. Fort de 18 attractions, dont une tour de 68 mètres, véritable ascenseur dont la cabine se déplace en spirale et offre un superbe panorama du nord de la capitale, Al-Joubaila se présente ouvertement comme une entreprise commerciale.

Si le terrain appartient à la municipalité du Grand Amman, le parc de loisirs d'Abou Nseir reste sous contrat avec la compagnie anglaise Chipperfield, concepteur et constructeur du site. «L'aménagement a coûté huit millions et demi de dollars, précise John Allan, avancés par un consortium de banques arabes et garantis par la municipalité». Une somme rondelette que compense progressivement le succès de l'opération et l'installation de bouddes, louées par l'entreprise.

«Depuis l'ouverture, nous avons enregistré 900.000 entrées, poursuit-il, dont 80.000 pendant le Grand Id. Cette année, nous

pensons dépasser les 750.000 visiteurs. C'est plutôt flatteur, quand on songe que le plus grand parc d'attractions britannique, Alton Towers, affiche deux millions de touristes par an». La référence n'est pas innocente: John Allan y a travaillé pendant quinze mois avant de prendre les rênes du parc d'Abou Nseir.

L'implantation d'Al-Joubaila en rase campagne se révèle par ailleurs être un atout, selon son directeur. «Ca représente une vraie sortie pour les gens. Le parc est également bien desservi par les lignes de bus et depuis quelques mois, les taxis stationnent à l'entrée. De plus, nous sommes en altitude et il fait bien meilleur ici qu'en basse ville».

Autrement dit: bien meilleur qu'à Al-Ahli. «Nous ne considérons pas le parc d'Abou Nseir comme un concurrent», souligne pour sa part Issa Abou Walid, tout en reconnaissant que depuis trois ans, la fréquentation de ses manèges a chuté de 20% à 25%.

Explication, selon lui: la crise économique, déjà latente depuis de nombreux mois, et le retour de plus en plus tardifs des expatriés, grands consommateurs de Luna-parks. «Autrefois, rappelle-t-il, ils venaient en vacances dès le mois de Ramadan et nous avions 5.000 visiteurs en moyenne par jour».

Les projets de construction de nouveaux parcs d'attraction à Irbid, en collaboration avec des entrepreneurs ouest-allemands, ou encore à Mafruj avec des industriels français, laissent pourtant croire que le gouvernement jordanien porte une réelle attention à l'enjeu économique des centres de loisirs. «Je ne pense pas qu'il y ait place pour un nouveau grand parc dans le royaume», estime John Allan. Le directeur d'Al-Ahli se «rassure» quant à lui en se demandant où l'Etat pourra trouver les deux millions de dinars nécessaires à leur réalisation.

Alain Renou.

Droits de l'Homme dans le monde arabe

Une progression à petits pas

La cause des droits de l'Homme semble marquer des points dans le monde arabe depuis le début de l'année. En février, le Conseil économique et social de l'ONU a notamment accordé le statut de «membre consultatif» à l'Organisation arabe des droits de l'Homme (OADH). En 1987, une demande similaire, de l'OADH avait été repoussée à New York, en raison du refus des délégations des pays arabes.

En juin dernier, un colloque consacré à «la protection, l'application et l'éducation des droits de l'Homme dans le monde arabe» s'est tenu à Syracuse en Italie. Organisé par l'Institut supérieur international des sciences criminelles et précédé par trois autres conférences en deux ans, cette réunion a, en quelque sorte, jeté les bases d'une stratégie arabe pour le respect de ces droits dans la région.

En deux semaines, une quarantaine de spécialistes (juristes,

juges, professeurs de droits, académiciens) des différents pays arabes ont débattu des moyens et des mesures à adopter afin de diffuser l'enseignement des droits de l'Homme dans les écoles arabes. Certains thèmes, plus délicats, ont parfois suscité de chaudes discussions. Notamment quant fut abordé le cas des minorités dans les pays arabes (16 millions de personnes), la religion musulmane, l'arabisme, ou encore les lois maritimes, en tant qu'obstacle majeur à l'exercice du droit dans certains pays.

Deux documents ont été publiés à l'issue du colloque. Le premier, «Projet de convention arabe pour la prévention de la torture, des traitements inhumains et dégradants», préconise en particulier la création d'un «comité arabe de prévention de la torture». Hélas souvent pratiquée contre les opposants politiques. Les Etats seront invités à signer cette convention.

Ali Rafsandsjani président

Un pouvoir renforcé

L'hodjatolislam Ali Akbar Hachemi Rafsandsjani, président du parlement iranien depuis neuf ans, a été proclamé président de la République dimanche, suite à l'élection de vendredi. Il remplace Ali Khamenei, promu imam. En allant aux urnes, les Iraniens se sont aussi prononcés en faveur des amendements de la Constitution qui renforcent le pouvoir exécutif, comme le souhaitait Ali Rafsandsjani.

Qualifiés de «succès sans précédent» par le ministre de l'Intérieur iranien, les 94,51% de suffrages exprimés vendredi dernier en faveur d'Ali Rafsandsjani, constituent en fait un score relativement habituel en Iran. Ali Khamenei avait obtenu à l'élection du 20 octobre 1981, 96,02% des voix: 16.847.717 électeurs avaient voté pour lui, alors qu'Ali Rafsandsjani obtient 15.537.394 suffrages. Ali Khamenei n'avait, en revanche, été réélu, quatre ans plus tard, qu'avec 14.200.000 voix et 85,7% des suffrages.

L'écrasante majorité des voix, obtenue par le nouveau président face à Abbas Cheibani, (3,91%), député de Téhéran, est donc moins à retenir que le taux d'abstentions. Un taux de 31,5% qui, tout en marquant un léger recrudescement par rapport aux 32,34% de la consultation présidentielle de 1985, n'en reste pas moins élevé et très supérieur aux 27% de l'élection présidentielle de 1981. Dans un pays qui compte 14 millions d'habitants, l'abstention a toujours été, depuis le début de la Révolution de 1979, une préoccupation des autorités religieuses qui lancent, avant chaque élection, de nombreux appels à la «participation massive» de l'électorat. Un électorat que le ministre de l'Intérieur, «en l'absence de toute liste électorale», a estimé à 24 millions.

La consultation présidentielle

était couplée à un référendum sur des amendements à la Constitution. Les électeurs se sont pratiquement tous prononcés (97,51%) en faveur des amendements apportés à 48 articles de la Constitution et instituant un pouvoir exécutif fort. Ali Rafsandsjani gouvernera donc comme il le souhaitait: sans aucun autre pouvoir ou «centre de décision», dont il a si souvent dénoncé la responsabilité dans la paralysie des rouages de l'exécutif. Il défendra seul la politique, avec l'appui du guide qui, «très en fait des affaires», lui sera, a-t-il dit, «d'un grand secours».

Ali Rafsandsjani accèdera à la présidence dès que l'actuel président de la République, Ali Khamenei, nommé entre-temps guide pour succéder à l'imam Khomeiny, présentera sa démission. Cette démission fixée à l'origine au 9 octobre, devrait probablement intervenir avant cette date, l'élection prévue pour le 18 août ayant été avancée au 28 juillet. (D'après agences).

TV

«Les affaires de l'heure»

Le roi Hussein a inauguré dimanche soir le nouveau magazine d'actualité de la télévision nationale, baptisé «Les Affaires de l'heure». Interrogé par les rédacteurs en chef des trois journaux arabes, le souverain s'est prêté au jeu des questions-réponses, orchestré par le directeur de la télévision, Mohammed Amin.

«Le principe de l'émission est simple: un thème, un invité, précise Mohammed Amin. Face à lui, trois journalistes ou experts, qui connaissent le dossier et qui ont cinquante minutes pour s'entretenir avec la personnalité de la semaine».

L'émission sera en effet hebdomadaire (vendredi soir) à partir du 11 août, indique le directeur de la télé, ajoutant que «certains débats se dérouleront en présence d'un public, sur le plateau». Comme dimanche dernier, «Les Affaires de l'heure» seront systématiquement enregistrées «deux à trois heures avant la diffusion».

La formule, à défaut d'être innovatrice (une émission du même type avait été lancée en 1985 puis abandonnée quelques mois plus tard), a eu le mérite de la surprise. Une surprise qu'ont partagée certains techniciens et journalistes de l'étrange lucarne jordanienne. «Nous ne savions même pas qu'un tel programme était en gestation», souligne l'un d'eux.

Voilà donc «Les Affaires de l'heure» inscrites dans les programmes. Reste à spéculer sur le nom du prochain invité, que Mohammed Amin garde jalousement secret. A.R.

Salekman Swies.

Cinéma

La mostra de Venise

La 46ème Mostra de Venise ouvre ses portes du 4 au 15 septembre, le programme officiel met en compétition les nouveaux films de Resnais, Scorsese et Minal Sen, tandis qu'en section parallèle Batman et Indiana Jones se partagent la vedette.

Parmi les 60 films présentés cette année à la Mostra de Venise, 23 sont en compétition. Trois favoris se dégagent du lot: Alain Resnais avec «I want to go home», un film tourné en anglais par le réalisateur français et interprété par Gérard Philipe; l'italien Ettore Scola avec «Che ora è» et enfin l'indien Minal Sen avec «Ek din achanak».

On verra aussi «Christian» de Gabriel Axel, le réalisateur danois du «Festin de Babette»; «Et la lumière fut» du cinéaste géorgien Iotat Ioseliani; «La femme de Rose Hill» du Suisse Alain Tanner; ou encore «Una notte di chiaro di luna» de l'italienne Lina

Wertmüller.

A côté de la sélection officielle, la Mostra présentera dans sa section «Venice notte» onze films dont plusieurs films américains d'ores et déjà très attendus en Europe, comme «Batman» de Tim Burton et «Indiana Jones and the last crusade» de Steven Spielberg. Les Européens attendent aussi «La vie et rien d'autre» de Bertrand Tavernier; «The cook, the thief, his wife and her lover» de Peter Greenaway et l'oeuvre épique de Peter Fleischmann: «Es ist nicht leicht ein gott zu sein».

En événements spéciaux, seront présentés le «Mahabharata» de Peter Brook, version filmée de la pièce de théâtre, «Il decalogo» du polonais Krzysztof Kieslowski, «Rouge vénitien» du français Etienne Périer, ainsi que «Ja sluzi u ochrane Stalina» du Soviétique Semjoo Aronovic.

Mots croisés

Par Florence Montell

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

Horizontalement.

1: effrayer. 2: homme de main; adjectif possessif. 3: pronom personnel; séduire. 4: couleurs; règle. 5: choisis; sur les tombes. 6: adjectif possessif; manche au tennis. 7: dans latin; pas attachées. 8: coordonne; article. 9: serpent. 10: adjectif possessif; nouées.

Verticalement.

A: discussions. B: pas beaucoup; pas rapide. C: valeur refuge; transport en commun. D: propre au raisin; est obligé. E: rapidité; lettre grecque. F: responsables. G: Arbres de l'éucalypt. H: féminin; enlève la tête. I: pas fréquents; font le séisme.

(Solution en bas de page)

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

From here to Eternity, de Fred Zinnemann, avec Burt Lancaster, Deborah Kerr, Frank Sinatra et Montgomery Clift. Les difficiles amours d'un soldat et de l'épouse d'un officier, les malheurs d'un compagnon d'armes persécuté par ses pairs... que l'attaque de Pearl Harbor pousse au paroxysme.

Centre cinématographique, dimanche 6 août (en anglais).

Djelli, conte d'aujourd'hui, de Fadika Kramo Lancinej avec Fatou Ouattara et Joachim Ouattara (1981). Une histoire d'amour entre deux jeunes étudiants d'Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), contrariée par les traditions...

Centre culturel français, lundi 7 août à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

Ciné-club. Thème de la semaine: les rapports du cinéma avec les autres arts. Séances respectivement à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 19h00 et 21h00.

Joué 3: Portrait of Genny; Amadeus; Blade runner; Beina Ostrin (egyptien); Gun with the wind.

Vendredi 4: Age of innocence; La Traviata; La Chute de l'empire romain; Oas Ashq (egyptien); Abd al wahab anni (syrien).

Samedi 5: Le Grand Orchestre; Hélène de Troie; La Maîtresse du lieutenant français; The world according to Garp.

Dimanche 6: Sand beebies; Romeo et Juliette; Le Voleur de Bagdad; Le Faiseur (soudanais); Les deux frères; L'Envoies.

Lundi 7: The world of Sazy Wang; Carmen (de Ross); The shape of thing to come; They kill horses, don't they.

Mardi 8: Portrait of Dorina Gray; Carmen (de Sams); Allen; Day of rage; Blood on the mummy's thumb.

Mercredi 9: The shades on the other side; Zorba le Grec; Jakkas; Yanks; War and Peace.

Films en version originale. Tél: 663901.

Route de l'université, à droite après l'hôtel Jérandine, puis première à gauche, 300m.

FETE

En soutien au ciné-club d'Amman, soirée arabo-occidentale à l'hôtel Alia, avec le chanteur libanais Tony Hanna et le poète syrien Ryad Na'ama.

Hôtel Alia, vendredi 4 août à partir de 21h00. Réservations au 663901.

EXPOSITION

Ces drôles de voitures. Une cinquantaine de voitures sur quatre, six ou huit roues, construites selon les désirs et les délirs de leurs propriétaires américains, belges, ouest-allemands, néerlandais et jordanien; un robot; des spectacles laser et de la musique...

Centre d'expositions internationales d'Amman, route de l'aéroport 16 droite en quittant la capitale, chaque jour de 10h00 à 18h00 jusqu'au 25 août. Entrée: 1 dinar; Enfants de plus de 11 ans et adultes: 2 dinars.

TELEVISION

Le Bots de justice, dans la série «Haute Tension», de Raymond Voillamoz, avec Myrtille David, Jacques Denis et Jean-Philippe Ecoffey. La jalousie entre deux frères, dont l'un, Léon, est né bossu et affligé d'un pied bot.

JTV, vendredi 4 août à 17h20.

Solution des mots croisés

Horizontalement.

1: épouvanter. 2: nervi; ta. 3: tu; attirer. 4: bleus; te. 5: élu; stèles. 6: tes; set. 7: lui; délices. 8: et; le. 9: vipère. 10: sa; tissées.

Verticalement.

A: entretiens. B: peu; lent. C: or; bus. D: vrai; doit. E: vilaines; pi. F: ruelles. G: noisettes. H: ée. I: élétez. J: raies; os.



Iran no longer able to delay tackling economic problems

DUBAI (R) — Iran's new leader have a long haul ahead in tackling the country's complex economic problems which can no longer be put aside, Iranian and Western economists say.

They say the problems of the distressed economy are now the leadership's top concern, with the Gulf war over a year ago, mummified ended for late supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and presidential elections not of the way last weekend.

President-elect Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, one of the few leading clerics with a grasp of the economy, has said economic revival is a priority.

"It would be wrong if some people were hoping that every problem would be solved quickly once the new government takes charge," said Iran's Jomhuri Islami newspaper at the weekend.

Rafsanjani, who is expected to assume the presidency this month, thinks the energy sector must be revived and a huge gap between official and blackmarket rial exchange rates narrowed.

Western economists agree, but add that a major problem is the off-forgotten farm sector. Iranian economists predict strong political and bureaucratic resistance to rapid reform.

Economic problems had taken a back seat through eight years of war with Iraq, and 10 years of

revolution led by an Islamic theocracy fresh from the seminary.

They had to learn economic management from scratch, handicapped by their rejection of the free market as ideologically unsound.

"Khomeini refused to address any of the major economic problems. Rafsanjani cannot suddenly reverse his wishes," said a Gulf-based Iranian economist.

The Islamic Revolution's attitudes to foreign borrowing, private sector participation, the role of investment and land reform all remain to be clearly defined because they do not fit neatly into an Islamic framework.

Even Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi, a strong supporter of the Islamic system, has said Iran's basic economic laws are not clear enough to encourage efficient development.

Based on official figures, Western economists estimate Iran's terms of trade fell 63 per cent in 1986, rose eight per cent in 1987, and fell again 16 per cent in 1988.

But the blackmarket exchange rate is now around 14 times the official 72 rials to the dollar. About 90 per cent of the economy is state controlled with around 80 per cent of that in the rial sector.

Iranian officials put inflation at 25 to 30 per cent but because of the exchange rate distortions, the

true rate is almost impossible to estimate.

Estimates of how much hard currency Iran needs to reconstruct start at around \$15 billion a year, equal to less than oil earnings of \$12-15 billion a year.

Oil accounts for over 90 per cent of current hard currency earnings and there is little hope of much from elsewhere.

Iran has announced a draft plan to boost heavy industrial exports to almost \$400 million from a mere \$4 million in 1988.

But chronic energy shortages persist and official figures show 120 state-run factories, or 80 per cent of heavy industry, worked at 30 per cent capacity and lost hundreds of billions of rials last year.

Oil industry sources estimate current Iranian production capacity at about three million barrels per day (BPD).

Iranian oil officials have said this could rise to 3.5 million BPD in six months but independent analysts believe this may be over-optimistic and geared more towards strengthening Iran's hand in negotiations for a higher OPEC quota in the next round of oil-producer talks.

Iran's present OPEC quota is 2.64 million BPD.

Asian construction managers in Tehran said much oil capacity along the old frontline with Iraq

was in ruins.

To ease the energy problem, Western economists said Rafsanjani had correctly targeted development of cheaper natural gas. Iran is estimated to have about 17 per cent of world reserves, second only to the Soviet Union.

Full exploitation of these resources, however, will require cooperation with Japan, South Korea, or Western nations.

This would at least require a political rapprochement with the European Community as relations with the United States remain largely hostile, the economists said.

"We cannot produce enough razor blades, so whole plants are not in the question," said an Iranian political analyst.

Iran must also feed itself if it is not to fritter away hard currency earnings on rising food imports.

Iranian officials say the country produces 6.5 million tonnes of wheat a year, loses 800,000 due to inefficiency, and needs to import 2.5 million.

Major problems include land ownership, what the state should do with large areas of land it confiscated after the revolution, halting the drift to urban areas, and improving crop yields which are half the world average for similar climates.

Western states discuss aid to Poland, Hungary

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — Officials from 24 industrialised countries met Tuesday to discuss Western aid to bolster political and economic reforms in Poland and Hungary.

A spokesman for the European Commission, which is coordinating the effort, said the meeting would be mainly devoted to collating information about existing aid programmes.

It will also prepare a ministerial meeting, probably in September, at which specific measures could

be decided.

The meeting coincided with the lifting of price controls on food in Poland, a move regarded in the West as a vital step towards a more market-oriented economy and the only way to end chronic shortages.

The 12-nation European Community has already agreed to give \$120 million worth of food to Poland. Most of it will be sold, with the proceeds going to a special fund to finance projects to improve food supplies and distribution.

But it is now looking to expand

that to include contributions from other Western countries, as agreed at the summit of the seven leading industrialised democracies in Paris last month.

The meeting is also due to discuss other forms of economic and trade cooperation with Hungary and Poland, although it will not tackle the crucial problem of their foreign debts.

Apart from the 12 EC states, the other countries represented at Tuesday's meeting were the six members of the European Free Trade Association, the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia,

New Zealand and Turkey.

Meanwhile in Chicago, President George Bush, in a speech overshadowed by reports of the execution of a hostage in Lebanon, Monday asked state governors to improve the U.S. educational system and establish trade ties with Poland and Hungary.

Bush made his remarks in a speech at the National Governors' Association summer meeting here.

Bush asked the governors to "include Poland and Hungary on your list" when they look for trade opportunities abroad.

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China to crack down on tax evasion by private businessmen

PEKING (AP) — The government has announced it will inspect the nation's 14.5 million private businesses in a bid to recover almost \$5 billion in revenues lost through tax evasion.

The State Taxation Bureau will check the books and tax registrations of private industrial, commercial and service enterprises in August and September for signs

of tax evasion or other illegal activities, Chinese newspapers reported Wednesday.

About 70-80 per cent of all private businesses evaded a total of more than 18.4 billion yuan (\$4.94 billion) last year, far exceeding the 9.2 billion yuan (\$2.53 billion) in tax revenues collected, the bureau said.

"What is more serious is that a

few lawbreakers attack tax collectors and prevent them from carrying out their duties," the Communist Party newspaper, the People's Daily, said.

The inspections are intended to establish a "clear-cut order for private business people to fulfill their obligations to the state," said Tax Bureau Director Jin Xin.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Britain pledges \$1.6m for Sudan

LONDON (AP) — Britain will provide an additional \$1 million (\$1.65 million) for assistance to war victims in southern Sudan, the foreign office has said. Britain has now contributed a total of \$7.2 million (\$11.9 million) to the United Nations "Operation Lifeline" programme.

Turkey imports Bulgarian iron

ANKARA (R) — Turkey, at odds with Bulgaria over a flood of ethnic Turkish refugees crossing its border, is importing Bulgarian iron to offset an iron and steel strike, a Turkish Labour official has said. Ali Tekin, a spokesman for the Cehik-Is steel workers union, told Reuters it was wrong for the government to campaign against Bulgaria while paying millions of dollars to Sofia for the iron. About 24,000 workers at mills in Karabuk near the Black Sea and Iskenderun in the south have been on strike since May 4 to demand pay rises. The mills produce most of Turkey's annual output of nine million tonnes of iron and steel. Tariffs on iron imports were lifted after the strike began. "The government won't reveal figures but we believe by the end of May alone Turkey paid some \$396 million for imported iron, most of it inferior-quality Bulgarian products received through Romania," Tekin said.

Argentina lifts restrictions on U.K. imports

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina, which broke diplomatic links with Britain during the 1982 Falkland Islands war, has lifted all restrictions on British imports, Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo said Tuesday. "The Argentine government has decided to lift the trade restrictions on imports from the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland and its dependencies," Cavallo told a news conference. Since taking power on July 8 the Peronist government has made several conciliatory gestures towards London, aiming at improving Anglo-Argentine relations. Argentina claims sovereignty over the South Atlantic archipelago which Argentine troops overran in April 1982. A British task force recovered the colony, a largely barren group of islands inhabited by about 2,000 people principally engaged in sheep-farming, after a 10-week war. British Foreign Office officials have said recently that Argentina should take practical steps such as restoring trade and other links before starting talks. Cavallo said Argentina would treat commerce with Britain the same as trade with any other nation. "Likewise, we have ceased all restrictions on the financing of Argentine exports to the United Kingdom and its dependencies," he added.

Bermuda court fines Iranian oil firm

HAMILTON, Bermuda (R) — The Bermuda supreme court has fined Iran's national oil company \$25,000 for making a death threat against a witness called to testify in its lawsuit against two Ashland Oil Co. subsidiaries. Lawyers for Ashland Overseas Trading Ltd had charged that its key witness, Iranian lawyer Fayed Amin, had been warned by Fayed Hosseini, director of international affairs for the National Iranian Oil Co., that Muslim Iranians who helped foreign companies such as Ashland would be killed. In the suit, the Iranian company had charged that Ashland Oil of Mississippi had failed to pay for \$282 million worth of Iranian oil delivered to it. Bermuda-based Ashland Overseas was also named as a defendant. Amin, who is a Muslim, testified despite the death threat. Judge David Hall ordered the National Iranian Oil Co. to pay \$25,000 plus court costs and scolded the Iranian official accused of making the threat.

Kodak earnings down 85 per cent

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (R) — Eastman Kodak Co., the world's largest producer of photographic products, has said that second-quarter earnings fell 85 per cent, weighed down by the cost of a restructuring programme. However, sales for the quarter ended June 11 rose nine per cent to a record \$4.5 billion. The decline in second-quarter earnings to \$60 million from a record \$390 million in last year's second quarter was also due to high interest costs associated with its \$5.1 billion takeover of Sterling Drug Inc. last year. Kodak, which derives about 45 per cent of its sales overseas, said profits also were hurt by the dollar's strength over last year.

Filipino government workers strike

MANILA (AP) — Thousands of government employees have launched a nationwide strike to demand higher wages that President Corason Aquino said the country cannot afford. About 12,000 striking workers rallied in front of the senate building to press their demand, police said. They joined public school teachers who walked off the job eight days ago over salary demands. Officials said the extent of the walkout was unclear. About 25 per cent of the 1,350 employees at Ninoy Aquino International Airport joined the walkout but operations there were unaffected, said Airport Manager Eduardo Carrascano.

Jordan exports 241,000 tonnes of fruits, vegetables

MAFRAQ (J.T.) — Jordan exported 241,000 tonnes of fruits and vegetables to other countries in the first half of 1989 bringing in a revenue of JD 42 million, according to Minister of Agriculture Adnan Badran.

The ministry is embarking on new policies aimed at increasing agricultural exports to bring in more badly needed foreign exchange, and special attention is being given to agricultural production in the Mafraq area, the minister said during a visit to the Mafraq Governorate.

Badran met with farmers, local officials and agricultural engineers during the tour which included a number of farmhands and government offices.

The ministry will adopt certain

policies to enable the agricultural sector to contribute more effectively towards enhancing the national economy which is at the moment going through difficulties, the minister pointed out.

The Mafraq region has proved to be specially interested in tomato production and the Ministry of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company, will adopt specific measures to boost production and is considering setting up a tomato paste factory in the governorate, the minister pointed out.

After discussions with the local farmers at a meeting, the minister opened an agricultural exhibition which displayed a variety of agricultural crops from different areas around Mafraq.

Egypt commissions study for Suez Canal expansion

AMSTERDAM (R) — The Egyptian government has commissioned a Dutch-Egyptian engineering consultancy consortium to conduct a study into the feasibility of expanding the Suez Canal, a spokesman for the consortium said Tuesday.

On July 26, the Nedeco Consortium received a commission from the Suez Canal Authority (SCA) to carry out a feasibility study into an expansion of the canal," said Financial Manager Peter Steenberg of Dutch Engineering Consultancy Bureau NEI.

Confirming Dutch press reports, he said the Arab fund would fund the 18-month study,

costing 1.6 million guilders.

Steenberg said the plan aimed to enable ships of up to 270,000 deadweight tonnes (DWT) pass through the canal compared with the current maximum of 150,000 DWT, and to deepen the waterway to 67 feet from 56 feet.

In addition to NEI, the consortium includes two Dutch Engineering Consultancy Agencies, a University of Delft Hydrodynamics Laboratory, and the Rotterdam-based Maritime Economic Research Centre.

Other partners are Egyptian engineering agency Dar Al Handasah and the Pacer and Tel Consultancy Agencies.

Egypt cuts oil export prices by \$1.25 a barrel

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt has reduced its oil export prices by \$1.25 a barrel for all grades, the third cut in almost five weeks, an Oil Ministry official said Wednesday.

The official, who spoke anonymously under ministry rules, said the new prices took effect on Aug. 1 and will remain in force until a new review is made by the pricing committee.

This departed from the practice

of setting a 15-day timetable on new prices. The official refused to explain, but the move appeared intended to give the Oil Ministry greater flexibility in its periodic price reviews.

The officials said the new prices were \$14.50 a barrel for the top-grade Gulf of Suez blend; \$13.65 a barrel for Belayim; \$12.50 a barrel for Ras Badran and \$12.20 a barrel for Ras Ghareb.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, August 2, 1989 Central Bank official rates			
Buy	Sell	Japanese yen (for 100)	421.3 425.5
U.S. dollar	573.4 579.4	Dutch guilder	274.5 277.2
Pound Sterling	922.4 941.9	Swedish crown	90.4 91.3
Deutschemark	309.7 312.8	Italian lira (for 100)	43.1 43.3
Swiss franc	360.9 364.5	Belgian franc (for 10)	148.3 149.8
French franc	91.4 92.3		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

	1.6610/20	U.S. dollars
One Sterling	1.1738/48	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.8495/502	Deutschemarks
	2.0868/75	Dutch guilders
	1.5925/35	Swiss francs
	38.71/75	French francs
	6.2675/725	Italian lire
	1331/1332	Japanese yen
	136.50/60	Swedish crowns
	6.3425/75	Norwegian crowns
	6.8075/125	Danish crowns
	7.1925/75	U.S. dollars
One ounce of gold	370.00/370.50	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — Market rumours, take-over bids and a rally in the bond market boosted the all ordinaries index 10.7 points to 1,549.3, nearing a post-crash high set in August 1988.

TOKYO — The Nikkei Index crossed the 35,000 mark to a new traded high but slipped back on profit-taking to close at 34,899.34, a gain of just 0.88.

HONG KONG — The Hang Seng Index closed 3.87 higher at 2,582.85 after profit-taking pared a 21-point rise. "Some investors were cautious but the upward trend seems confirmed," a local broker said.

SINGAPORE — Late bargain-hunting helped shares recover from early falls. The Straits Times Industrials fell 4.81 points to 1,362.27.

BOMBAY — The market was undermined by rumours that Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi might call early elections, and prices fell on speculative selling.

FRANKFURT — Profit-taking set in after the market reached new 1989 highs and dealers said investors were wary of pushing prices much beyond current levels. The Real-Time 30-Share Dax Index gained 8.44 to 1,587.35.

ZURICH — Prices closed firm after a hesitant opening. Demand for chemical shares led the market higher. The All-Share Swiss Index gained 5.2 to a year's high of 1,169.7.

PARIS — Share prices closed slightly higher after a fairly quiet session, with the CAC General Index edging up to a new high. It rose to 505.9 from 504.9 on Tuesday and the 50-Share Price Indicator ended 0.11 per cent higher.

LONDON — Share prices ended at the day's highest levels helped by gains on Wall Street on the back of bargain-hunting. The FTSE Index closed 15.3 points up at 2,307.6.

NEW YORK — Blue chip stocks were a trace lower in morning trading but remained mixed in a tight range in light trading. The Dow Jones Industrials were down one at 2,640.

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ENQUIRIES: The School is presently accepting registrations for the September term. The School will also be open for registration every Monday in July and August between the hours of 9.00 a.m. and 12 noon. The new term begins on Sunday 10th September

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TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT Seventh Education Project

The contractors who had been qualified previously for the Seventh Education Project and willing to participate in the following bid are requested to get bid documents from the projects and buildings directorate, Ministry of Education from 29.7.1989 with the following conditions.

A. The Seventh Education Project is partially financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

B. Description of tender Price JD Tender Bond
1. Tender No. 11/89 125 20000
Construction of school buildings in Hay Nazal Al Sharki. Area 8323 Sq.M

C. Last date of purchasing copies of tender documents is 9.9.89.

D. Award for any contractor will be based on the allowable ceiling of commitment and Number of projects as indicated in the government works byelaws and classification regulations.

E. Last date for submitting financial offers is 13.9.89 at 13.30 at the Ministry of Public Works.

Director of General Tendering Committee

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

1) MICHAEL JACKSON
MOON WALKER

Only one show at 3:30

2) The Arabic film

Shows at 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **ALJOUH** Tel: 675571

STAKEOUT

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 pm

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420

BREMIENS
DESIRS

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

1500 أمتار

American Samoa Game Fishing Association jumped into second place with 613 points after

Marina Del Rey of California moved into third place with 400 points with Carl Lambert and Ronald Smothers picking up 200 points each with tag-and-release Marlin catches.

MARADONA TO ARRIVE LATE, BUT RIFT DENIED: Napoli's general manager Luciano Moggi said in Naples Tuesday that Diego Maradona would return to Italy later than expected but denied rumors of a rift between the club and the Argentine World Cup captain. Moggi said Maradona's agent, Guillermo Campa, had phoned him from Buenos Aires to say the player would return to Naples on August 16 — a week before Napoli play their first game of the season. Maradona was expected back Thursday to take his customary pre-season time-up at an Alpine clinic. Moggi was upset that Maradona would not appear this week. "A delay of a day or so would be all right, but we won't tolerate any longer," he said. Maradona is reported to be on a family skiing holiday in the exclusive Andean resort of Las Lenas. Campa said: "Maradona is going on holiday like everyone else. Afterwards, like everyone else, he will be back to work. In Italy, of course. But after his holiday." (R)

Graf, who beat Rene Simpson of Canada 6-0, 6-0 in her opening-round match Monday night, said it was different playing Nagelsen.

"She plays serve-and-volley and I played a baseliner. There weren't too many rallies because it was difficult to get into a rhythm against her and the points were short."

The Astros jumped on loser Tim Leary, 7-9, for two runs in

Douh Bair, 0-2, retired the first two Expos in the 11th before Hubie Brooks doubled down the left field line and was replaced by pinch-runner Oris Nixon.

The sources, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said reports in British newspapers that the starting date for the new league definitely would be postponed.

The sources also said that Schramm and other officials were talking with about a half-dozen prospective owners of the London franchise and were looking at six or seven possible venues, including Wembley stadium.

to a black African boycott of next year's New Zealand tour.

The rugby invitations were a more serious matter, he said,

• The rebel Australian tourists of 1985/6 were banned for three years from international competition, stripping the national team of many top players.

♠KQ73 ♥A106 ♦AKJ5 ♣87
 The bidding has proceeded:
 South West North East
 1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
 1 ♠ 2 ♠ ?
 What action do you take?
 Look for answers on Monday.

[illegible]

JUST THE ONCE, JOHN,
JUST THE ONCE

"We could borrow against the equity in my bowling ball! Ants live in the holes, so technically it's a house!"

Saturday's | **Jumbles:** ELEGY HOBBY UPSHOT GUIDED
Answer: What the ant did when he saw the anteater—
BUGGED OUT



An inspector, right, checking for banned books in a Peking bookstore as the owner waits. The China News Agency reported Thursday that books written by leading dissident authors have been banned.

China blasts exiled students

PEKING (R) — China Wednesday bitterly attacked fugitive students and intellectuals who have called for the overthrow of the Peking government, and lashed at Voice of America radio for giving them extensive coverage.

About 500 Chinese students and scholars met in Chicago last weekend to form the Front of Democratic China and announced plans to open a radio station and underground newspaper to promote democracy on the mainland.

The main speakers fled China after troops and tanks crushed student-led protest in Peking June 4, with many deaths.

In its first report of the meeting, the People's Daily Communist Party newspaper on its front page denounced the student leaders as "thieves who had sold out the country" and said their movement was doomed to failure.

"These traitors on the run —

however much they rely on anti-Chinese support in (the United States), Taiwan and Hong Kong, however much they madly jump up and down, whatever trouble-making troupe they set up... they are simply despicable huffoons," it said.

It attacked U.S. government-funded Voice of America (VOA) radio for giving extensive coverage to dissident movement leaders Wueraik and Yan Jiaqi.

"Using these traitors to wantonly advocate overthrowing the Chinese People's Republic and government is a gross interference in the internal affairs of China," the newspaper said. "It seriously damages the good relations between the U.S. and China."

"VOA is simply lifting a rock to drop it on its own feet," the newspaper said, reviving a well-known dictum of the late Chinese ruler Mao Tse-tung.

China has repeatedly attacked

VOA for its coverage of the student protests and expelled two of its reporters.

The People's Daily quoted Hong Kong and Taiwan press reports as saying the dissidents had received money from Hong Kong and the Nationalist government on Taiwan and that a Wueraik had his picture taken with a nationalist official in Chicago.

Wuerkaixi and another student at the Chicago meeting, Li Lu, are among 21 students on a wanted list published by the Peking police June 13. China is known to have captured only about seven of them.

A Western diplomat said the ferocity of the attack reflected Peking's fear of the influence the new organization would have on Chinese students abroad and on Chinese on the mainland.

The People's Daily attacked Wueraik for saying that "tens of thousands" were killed June 4,

Poland elects premier

WARSAW (R) — Poland's communist leaders stamped out an unprecedented parliamentary revolt Wednesday and forced the appointment of controversial Interior Minister General Czeslaw Kiszczak as prime minister.

Parliamentary sources said communist leaders pushed through his appointment by threatening to dissolve parliament and ditch dozens of rebel communist and allied peasant and democratic party deputies from safe seats if Kiszczak was not approved.

Kiszczak, a craggy, 63-year-old army general and chief executor of martial law in the early 1980s, was then comfortably elected by 237-173 votes with 10 abstentions.

But in a further sign of political turmoil in this East Bloc country, parliament also voted 206-169 to form a special commission to consider impeaching outgoing Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski and members of his government for economic mismanagement.

Rakowski was elected Communist Party leader Saturday. The impeachment move appeared clearly aimed at dis-

crediting the ruling party but several of its deputies voted with the opposition for creation of the commission.

Kiszczak promised to present a cabinet and programme in two weeks but he indicated there would be no major change in economic policy by re-appointing Ireneusz Sekula as deputy prime minister with responsibility for the economy.

Solidarity's parliamentary leader Bronislaw Geremek offered qualified opposition support, saying it would back sound economic policies but would not shore up "the crumbling structures of power."

Geremek told state radio it was "high time" for an opposition government but he was not sure the Soviet Union, the Polish army and police were ready to accept this yet.

Kiszczak's election was thrown into serious doubt Tuesday by a revolt among communist deputies

as well as members of the peasant and democratic parties allied with them since the late 1940s.

Sixty of the Peasant Party's 76 deputies and 13 Communists said Tuesday they would join Solidarity's 161 deputies in voting against Kiszczak. Some sources said up to 80 per cent of the 27 democratic deputies also threatened to join the revolt.

The rebellion was unprecedented in Poland's post-war political history.

Solidarity deputies also said the Peasant Party was offering to cross the floor and join the opposition movement in forming a government that would have commanded a parliamentary majority.

But Peasant Party sources told Reuters Wednesday they were forced to back down by outraged Communists at a series of noisy caucus meetings Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.

"We were told at a caucus meeting this morning that if we could not elect a prime minister, the president (General Wojciech Jaruzelski) would dissolve parliament and the splinter group would not be able to get back into parliament," a Peasant deputy said.

Jaruzelski has the right to dissolve parliament if a deadlock prevents the appointment of a government.

Despite this pressure, at least 12 non-Solidarity deputies voted against Kiszczak and five Communists were among those seen raising their hands against him.

Robels said they opposed Kiszczak because he had the image of a ruthless general — despite his recent role as chief negotiator in an historic political reform deal with Solidarity — and because his appointment would show the country the reforms had changed nothing.

His election was the second narrow escape for the Communists in two weeks in getting a top state appointment through parliament.

Only the assistance of a few Solidarity moderates June 19 secured Jaruzelski's election as president after a mini-revolt among the Communists' allies.

Geremek, in his radio interview, said Solidarity was ready to form a government at any moment.

"It was realistic and it is realistic at any moment that the opposition creates a government," he said.

Blacks launch defiance campaign

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Scores of black and Indian patients, backed by throngs of protesters, sought treatment at segregated hospitals for whites Wednesday as the anti-apartheid movement launched a nationwide defiance campaign.

At major hospitals in Johannesburg and Durban, patients ranging from school children to wheelchair-bound grandmothers were admitted for treatment. Hospital officials, trying to avoid confrontations, said they would not turn away anyone who

appeared in genuine need of medical care.

Twelve white women supporting the protest were arrested in Johannesburg, but no violence was reported at any of the eight hospitals targeted by the Mass Democratic Movement, a coalition of anti-apartheid groups that has organised the defiance campaign.

In the port city of Durban, about 800 protesters staged an illegal demonstration near Addington hospital while scores of blacks and Indians sought

admission for treatment under the direction of senior anti-apartheid leaders.

The first protester to enter the facility was Mariam Jagger, an elderly Indian woman in a wheelchair. She was processed and given an admission card.

More than 20 blacks were admitted to Johannesburg General hospital by mid-morning, and scores of supporters gathered nearby. Like Addington, Johannesburg General regularly admits some blacks for emergency care and some specialised treatment.

Kosovo miners ignore appeals, continue strike

BELGRADE (R) — Hundreds of ethnic Albanian miners ignored appeals from authorities in the Yugoslav province of Kosovo Wednesday and continued a strike which is the region's worst labour unrest since nationalist riots in March.

Pitmen at the Trepcja lead and zinc mine, angry at having to wait more than a month for their June salaries, refused to work for the second consecutive day despite promises from officials that they would be paid later Wednesday or Thursday.

Local authorities said the dispute was chiefly over money. But the Trepcja miners led a general

strike in Kosovo in February to support demands that ethnic Albanians keep the autonomy they were granted under Yugoslavia's 1974 constitution.

Yugoslav authorities suppressed the strike with armed forces and in March passed control over Kosovo to Serbia, the country's largest republic. Twenty-five people were killed in subsequent riots, Yugoslavia's worst communal violence since World War II.

Officials in Kosovo said the strike had not spread outside Titova Mitrovica, the town 200 kilometres south of Belgrade where the mines are located. The

provincial capital Pristina, where Albanian nationalism is strong, was reported quiet.

Up to 700 miners went on strike Tuesday at Trepcja, which is Kosovo's largest industrial enterprise with more than 20,000 workers. Its lead and zinc pits are the biggest in Yugoslavia and the plant produces more than half of Kosovo's exports.

Trepcja is in deep financial trouble, part of a wider crisis in Kosovo where the 36 per cent unemployment rate is more than twice the Yugoslav average and where the average monthly wage of about \$100 is less than two-thirds of the Yugoslav norm.

U.S. arms sales to Third World increase

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States increased arms sales to the Third World last year, nearly matching deals made by the Soviet Union, according to a report to the U.S. Congress released Tuesday.

The study by the Congressional Research Service, an arm of Congress, said France was the third-ranking arms supplier to the Third World, followed by China, Britain and Italy.

Sales by West Germany have dropped more sharply than those of any other leading supplier over the past decade, and the country now trails North Korea and Czechoslovakia, the study said.

Total arms sales by all countries to the Third World declined in 1988 to \$29.7 billion, the lowest level since 1983, it said.

The report cited two principal factors that it said explain the overall decline in Third World

arms transfers: — Many countries are only now receiving weapons bought in previous years and are not purchasing large numbers of new, expensive items;

— "Many Third World countries are burdened by significant debts and are thus unable or unwilling to commit the funds necessary to obtain additional weapons they might otherwise buy," the report said.

"The Soviet Union and the United States have clearly dominated the Third World arms market as the top two suppliers from 1981-1988," accounting for half of all sales.

U.S. arms sales rose to \$9.2 billion in 1988, a 66 per cent increase over the previous year, while Soviet sales fell by 47 per cent to \$9.9 billion, it said.

The Soviets sold 33 per cent of the weapons obtained by the

Third World in 1988, down from 50 per cent in 1987, and the United States sold 31 per cent, up from 15 per cent in 1987, the study said.

The study cited a \$1.9 billion U.S. sale of missiles and 40 F-18 jet fighters to Kuwait as one of the transactions that boosted the U.S. total for 1988.

It said that during 1988 France made sales of \$3.1 billion, China \$1.9 billion, Britain \$1 billion, Italy \$250 million and West Germany \$70 billion.

From 1985 through 1986, the Soviets were in first place with \$60.3 billion in sales, followed by the United States with \$23.6 billion, Britain \$11.6 billion, China \$9.7 billion, France \$9.2 billion, Czechoslovakia \$2.5 billion, Italy \$2.2 billion, North Korea \$2.15 billion, West Germany and Brazil, \$1.4 billion each, and Spain \$1.2 billion.

1988 hostage drama grips W. Germans

ESSEN, West Germany (AP) — The trial of three men accused of murder in a 1988 hostage-taking, which left three people dead and shocked the nation, began Wednesday in a packed Essen court.

The 54-hour ordeal last August included a bank robbery, a bus hijacking, the murder of a teenage boy, a high-speed crash that killed a pursuing police officer, and a shootout that left a woman hostage dead on a major highway.

Millions of West German television viewers watched in horror as parts of the terror were played out live in front of television cameras.

Hans-Juergen Roesner, Dieter Degowski and Marion Loeblich are charged with murder and kidnapping, among other counts.

The hostage drama began Aug. 16, 1988 when two robbers barricaded themselves inside a bank in the central West German town of Gladbeck after police circled the bank.

The robbers took two bank employees hostage and were allowed to leave the scene, tailed by police.

On Aug. 17, after picking up a woman accomplice, the gangsters seized a city bus in Bremen carrying 35 people. Negotiations with police failed, and the gunmen ordered the bus onto an autobahn.

A 15-year-old boy was shot to death by the gangsters at a highway rest area after police tried to seize the woman accomplice. The bus then raced west, and a police officer pursuing the kidnappers died when his car crashed.

On Aug. 18, the kidnappers commandeered the bus into the

Netherlands, just over the West German border, and released all hostages but two women. Police delivered a high-powered automobile to the kidnappers, who fled back into West Germany after a heavy exchange of gunfire.

Police finally put an end to the ordeal on an Autobahn just outside of Bonn, ramming the bandits' car with a Mercedes and opening fire.

One of the hostages, 18-year-old Silke Bischof, was killed during the exchange, and police said she died from a bullet fired by one of the gangsters.

The defendants' attorney, Rolf Boss, said in his opening statement at Essen's district court that law officials were responsible for escalating the bank robbery into "the most spectacular hostage-taking" to ever occur in West Germany.

COLUMN

Bee Gees on the attack

NEW YORK (AP) — Twelve years after their chart-topping album "Saturday Night Fever" made them kings of the disco era, the Bee Gees are looking for respect from American music audiences. The brothers — Robin, Barry and Maurice Gibb — are hoping to put their white-suited, gold chain-wearing days behind them as they embark on their first U.S. tour in a decade. "We've spent too many years on the defensive, and now that we're on the attack, it feels a damn sight better," Barry said in an interview. "This band has been around for 30 years, so it's a little unfair to tag us with the disco label. Paul McCartney made disco records. Rod Stewart did. Even Ethel Merman, which shows you how outrageous the times were." The brothers of falsetto harmony have faced several trials during the past decade — the cocaine-related death of brother Andy last year, Maurice's treatment for alcoholism in 1980 and record company battles that kept them from recording for eight years. The tour will promote their new album, "One."

Actor defends Colt association

DETROIT (AP) — Actor Billy Dee Williams has defended his association with Colt 45 malt liquor, saying criticism of liquor advertisements that target blacks is overblown. "I think people are getting a little ridiculous," Williams said after making a donation to the special Olympics. "When we don't know what to do, we start picking at anything. The whole focus should be not so much on the beer but on how you lead your life," said Williams, a spokesman for Colt for several years. Black leaders in Detroit, citing studies showing more alcohol and tobacco-related health problems among blacks than among whites, have been sharply critical of advertisements for those products in the city. Wayne county commissioner Alberta Tinsley-Williams has proposed banning new billboards advertising such products.

Suspect 'gives up' evidence

WILKINSBURG, Pennsylvania (AP) — Police say the stolen evidence was within sight — on the X-ray of the suspect's stomach — and the only question was how to recover the two diamond rings. So R.C. Wright, 29, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, decided to "regurgitate the rings," said officer Robert Tuve. "It was voluntary on his part." Police, who responded to a report of a break-in at a house ordered the intruder to surrender, and he eventually did, authorities said. The homeowner said a 32-calibre revolver and two rings — a half-carat diamond ring worth about \$600 and a smaller diamond ring worth about \$300 — were missing, police said. They found the pistol, but concluded their suspect must have swallowed the rings, authorities said. Police got a search warrant and took Wright to a hospital, where X-rays showed the rings clearly, police said. Police said doctors said the rings could be recovered through stomach pumping or surgery or by waiting for him to pass them. "As it turned out, he knew that things weren't going to be all that comfortable for him anyway, so he decided to cough them up," said Dan Reareick. "He just said, 'wait a minute.' Then he coughed up the rings." Reareick said the suspect handed the rings to police.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	WIND
AMSTERDAM	13	19	88 Cloudy
ATHENS	21	34	32 Clear
BAHRAIN	32	40	103 Clear
BANGKOK	27	34	93 Clear
BLANCO APRES	40	40	88 Cloudy
CAIRO	22	34	93 Clear
CHICAGO	18	25	75 Clear
COPENHAGEN	12	16	81 Rain
FRANKFURT	10	18	84 Cloudy
GENEVA	14	17	83 Clear
HONG KONG	26	31	88 Part
JERUSALEM	18	28	82 Clear
LONDON	13	23	75 Clear
LOS ANGELES	19	26	88 Clear
MADRID	20	28	100 Clear
MECCA	23	33	111 Clear
MONTREAL	13	25	84 Cloudy
MOSCOW	11	17	57 Clear
NEW DELHI	28	34	89 Clear
NEW YORK	20	28	87 Clear
PARIS	12	14	22 Clear
ROME	22	23	71 Clear
SYDNEY	24	28	82 Cloudy
TOKYO	07	15	48 Clear
VIENNA	12	14	20 Clear

LDP successor search near end

TOKYO (AP) — The leader of a small group within the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has emerged as a possible king-maker as the party searches for a replacement for resigning Prime Minister Souseike Uno.

Toshio Komoto, head of a 30-member LDP faction in parliament, was the focus of speculation Tuesday that either he or one of his faction members would be the next party president, and, because the LDP holds a majority in the powerful Lower House of Parliament, Japan's next prime minister.

The mass-circulation newspaper Asahi shimbun said behind-the-scenes negotiations centered on Komoto's faction. The president is to be formally elected next Tuesday.

Komoto's victory "is the wish

of our whole faction," said Komoto's protégé Toshiki Kaifu, who is also seen as a leading contender for the party's top post.

Kyodo News Service said support for Kaifu, 58, is growing in the factions headed by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, and that he also would be more acceptable to young party members.

The report said Abe had phoned Komoto, 78, and indirectly asked him not to run. Without Komoto in the race, and with Abe and Takeshita backing him, Kaifu would be the leading candidate.

However, a Komoto faction official said Kaifu and Komoto have not changed their minds. "There has been no change in



Souseike Uno

Mr. Kaifu's position," said the official, who requested anonymity. "He continues to support the candidacy of Mr. Komoto, and has not said anything about running himself."

Who are the bad guys in Australia?

By Richard Bill
The Associated Press

SYDNEY — Australia's police forces are reeling from a series of recent scandals in which senior officers have been charged with rape, corruption and drug trafficking.

"It makes me wonder why the hell we have an oath of office," said Tony Day, spokesman for the New South Wales (NSW) Police Association.

Some police say that the cases involve a relatively small number of police and that the good deeds of law enforcement officers usually go unpublished.

Former NSW detective Superintendent Harry Blackburn was charged in late July with 27 counts of violent sexual assault for crimes, dating back to 1969, that he had been responsible for investigating. He allegedly forced couples from their cars, tied up the men and raped the women.

Police in three of Australia's six states were implicated earlier in the month in a 2-million (U.S.) dollar-a-year stolen car racket that officials said was part of a "highly organised criminal enterprise." Police involvement was said to date to

1970.

In Queensland, investigator Tony Fitzgerald led a recently concluded inquiry that uncovered a web of alleged corruption involving police, local politicians and businessmen. The two-year probe resulted in 16 counts of corruption and perjury against former Commissioner of Police Sir Terence Lewis.

In South Australia state, the head of the drug squad, Barry Moyce, was jailed for 28 years last August for heroin trafficking.

New South Wales, which is Australia's most populous state and includes the largest city, Sydney, has had the most attention from newspapers that carry almost-daily sensational accounts of crooked cops.

For NSW minister for police Rex Jackson is serving a prison sentence for taking bribes to shorten prison sentences. Roger Rogerson, former head of the armed holdup squad, is under investigation for attempted murder and racketeering. The former chief magistrate, Murray Farquhar, recently released from jail, has been re-arrested for alleged possession of stolen paintings.

NSW police have launched an internal investigation over a

shootout that went wrong. An innocent aborigine was gunned down in bed by a police special forces team in a hunt for another man who had shot two policemen.

The government also ordered an official investigation into the deaths of 105 aborigines in police custody nationwide since 1980. It found that police officials had perjured themselves under oath, fuelling allegations that many of the deaths were the result of police brutality.

And, in a separate corruption inquiry, senior NSW state police said 22 officers were dismissed and more 200 others counselled last year following 2,230 public complaints for alleged assault, neglect of duty and rudeness.

Assistant Police Commissioner Tony Laner said that in an effort to regain public confidence, all senior police officials must provide details of their financial assets and debts.

Despite the bad publicity, federal police spokesman Brian Minnards said: "It's the usual problem of a few bad apples. The media doesn't say anything about the 'thank you' letters that come in for a job well done. They concentrate only on the bad side of things."



Margaret Thatcher

Thatcher reshuffle angers cabinet

LONDON (AP) — In a cabinet shuffle that humiliated her longtime foreign secretary, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has angered powerful political associates with what some regard as an affront that has gone too far.

It was not so much what she did in the July 24 changes — when 13 of the 22 cabinet posts changed hands — that has upset the hierarchy of the usually well-disciplined Conservative Party.

It was the way she did it that left wounds and resentments. And some analysts believe those hard feelings could mark the beginning of the political end for the leader who came to power a decade ago.

"Many of us found what went on nauseating," Tory legislator David Howell, chairman of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, said in a television interview.

He spoke after news broke of how Thatcher moved aside Sir Geoffrey Howe, Britain's longest serving foreign secretary since World War II, and replaced him with a virtual unknown, John Major.

In the process, Thatcher offered Howe another senior, but less prestigious job, home secretary — without consulting the present incumbent, Douglas Hurd, according to Howe's aides.

Howe, 62, turned that down, viewing it a demotion after six years as foreign secretary.

He settled for what Thatcher's office called the "courtesy title" of deputy prime minister, the job of government leader in the Commons, and residence in a country mansion, Dorneywood. That mansion now is being used as a weekend retreat by the third member of Thatcher's top cabinet trio, Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson.

"This is how regimes behave when they have begun to take power for granted," commented London Sunday Times columnist Robert Harris.

Off the record, government ministers were quoted as complaining that Thatcher, 63, committed a major blunder by humiliating or insulting her top three cabinet colleagues.

Some described the shuffle by Thatcher — who has sole power to appoint cabinet ministers from among her party's legislators — as a "shambles" and said it reflected her increasing lack of consultation with the cabinet.

On the record, Thatcher's Downing Street office took the unusual step of announcing that she supported Hurd and would have kept him in an unspecified top job. Her office also said there will be no more cabinet shakeups before the next general election. It must be held by mid-1992.